

SIRENS OF THE NORSE SEA

GIHEF, MITRIC, PASTORE
PERIFANO, TRIFOGLI
& BARDIAUX-VAÏENTE

THE WITCH OF THE SOUTH



HUMANOID[⚡]IDS



SOGNEFJORD

NOREEGR

TYRIFJORD

KATTEGLAND

TROLL
VILLAGE

SVEA

NORTH
SEA

SKAGERRAK

KATTEGAT

DENMORK

BALTIC SEA

EAST FRANCIA



PALACE OF
AEGIR



NEWT CAVE

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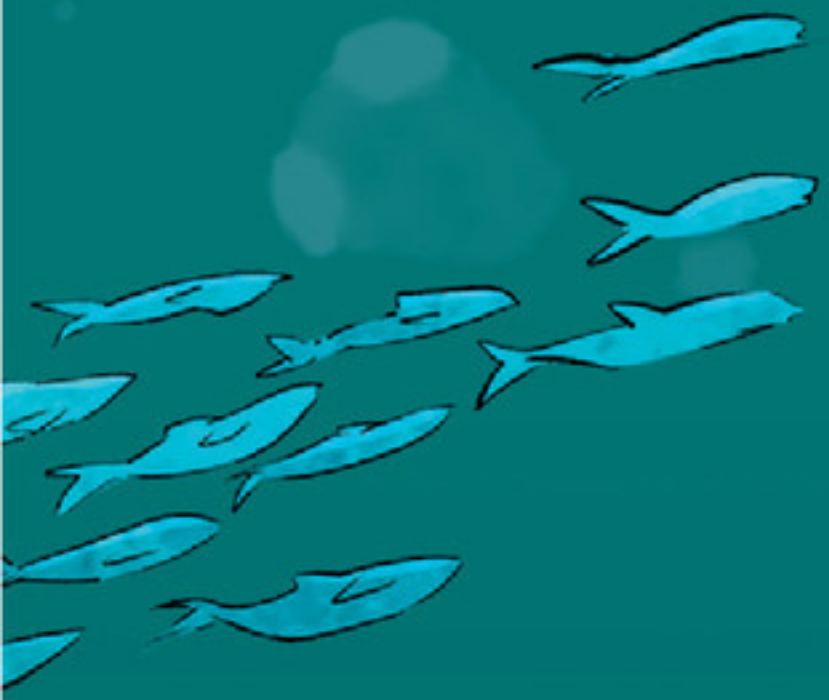
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THE WITCH OF THE SOUTH



SEVILLE, FORMER CAPITAL
OF AL-ANDALUS, 844 A.D.

WE'VE BEEN MOORED HERE FOR
THIRTEEN DAYS, BJARNOLFR.
THE SARACENS ARE CLOSING IN,
AND WE'RE OUTNUMBERED. WE
NEED TO GET AWAY, BY ODIN!

WHO CARES ABOUT THOSE
COWARDS, GORM?! I'M NOT
LEAVING THIS PLACE WITHOUT
A GIFT FIT FOR OUR KING.

THEN HE'LL HAVE
TO LET ME MARRY
HIS DAUGHTER.

WHAT IF IT'S A TRAP? YOU CAN'T RELY ON THE WORDS
OF AN OLD MAN WHOSE FAMILY YOU THREATENED TO KILL!

HE WAS PROBABLY LYING
THROUGH HIS TEETH SO
YOU'D LET THEM LIVE.

YOU MAY BE RIGHT,
COMRADE. BUT IN ANY
CASE, WE'LL FIND OUT
SOON ENOUGH.

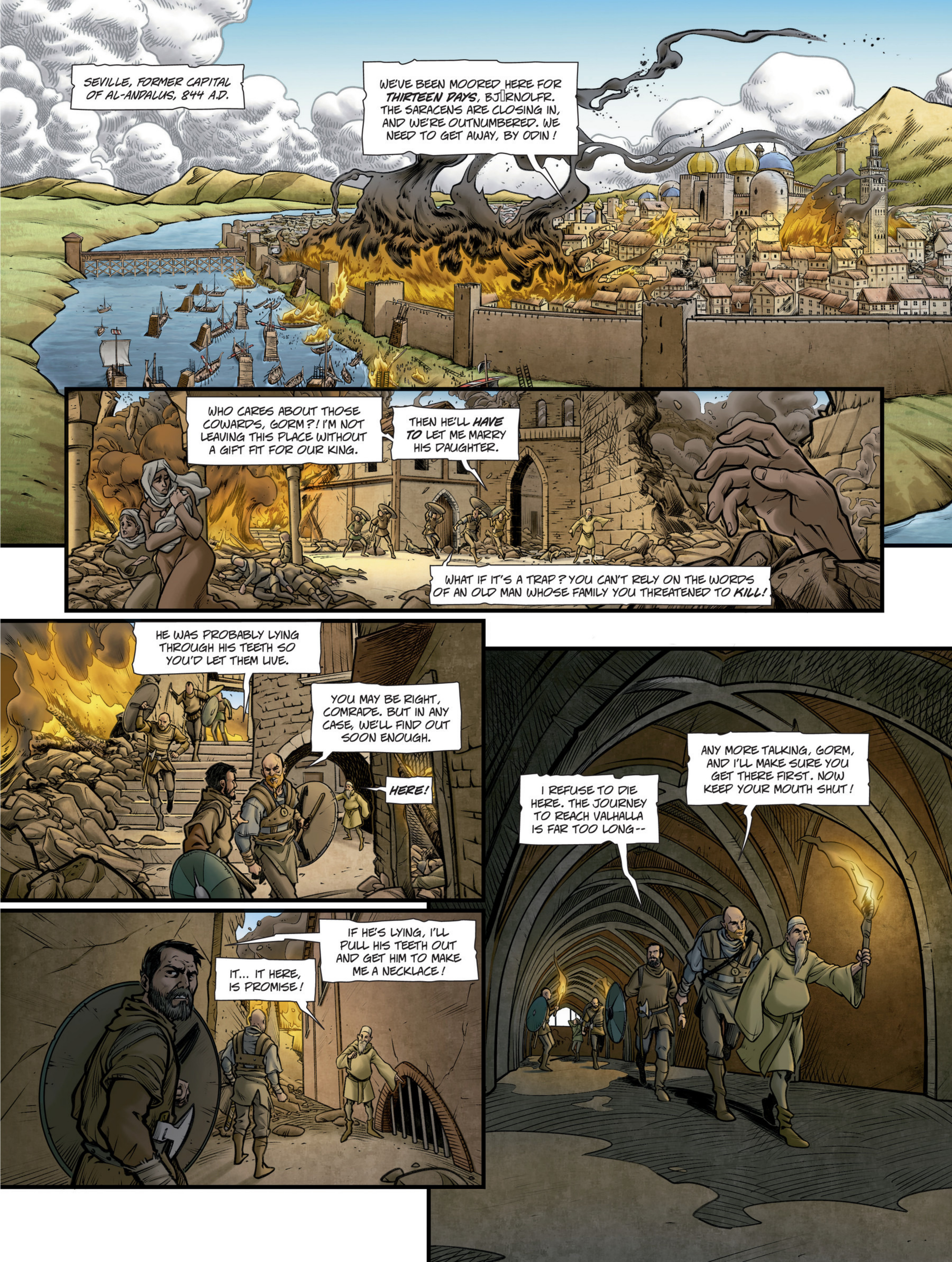
HERE!

I REFUSE TO DIE
HERE. THE JOURNEY
TO REACH VALHALLA
IS FAR TOO LONG--

ANY MORE TALKING, GORM,
AND I'LL MAKE SURE YOU
GET THERE FIRST. NOW
KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT!

IT... IT HERE,
IS PROMISE!

IF HE'S LYING, I'LL
PULL HIS TEETH OUT
AND GET HIM TO MAKE
ME A NECKLACE!





M-MAY MJLNIR
STRIKE ME DOWN!



GORM, HAVE THE MEN
GET THIS CREATURE
ABOARD THE LONGSHIP!
WE WEIGH ANCHOR
BEFORE DAWN.

NO! NO TAKE! EZEELAMIRI
IS DEMON! WILL DRIVE ALL
YOUR MEN TO MADNESS!



E-EZEELAMIRI? IS THAT
THE NAME OF THIS...
THING? I... I DON'T
KNOW, BJRNOLFR.
MAYBE WE OUGHT TO
LISTEN TO THE OLD MAN
AFTER ALL AND NOT--



SKRRRRRING!

BJRNOLFR?

WHAT ARE
YOU... ?!



URK!



I SAID: GET
THIS CREATURE
ABOARD THE SHIP.



THE NORTH SEA,
FOUR DAYS LATER...



GORM?



I DON'T WANT A SINGLE
MAN TO TAKE THEIR EYES OFF
THE HORIZON TILL THEY SPOT
LAND. IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?

YES, BUT THE SEAS
ARE ROUGH... PERHAPS
YOU SHOULD--



DO AS I SAY, AND **NEVER**
DARE TO QUESTION MY
ORDERS AGAIN OR I'LL
TOSS YOU TO THE SHARKS!

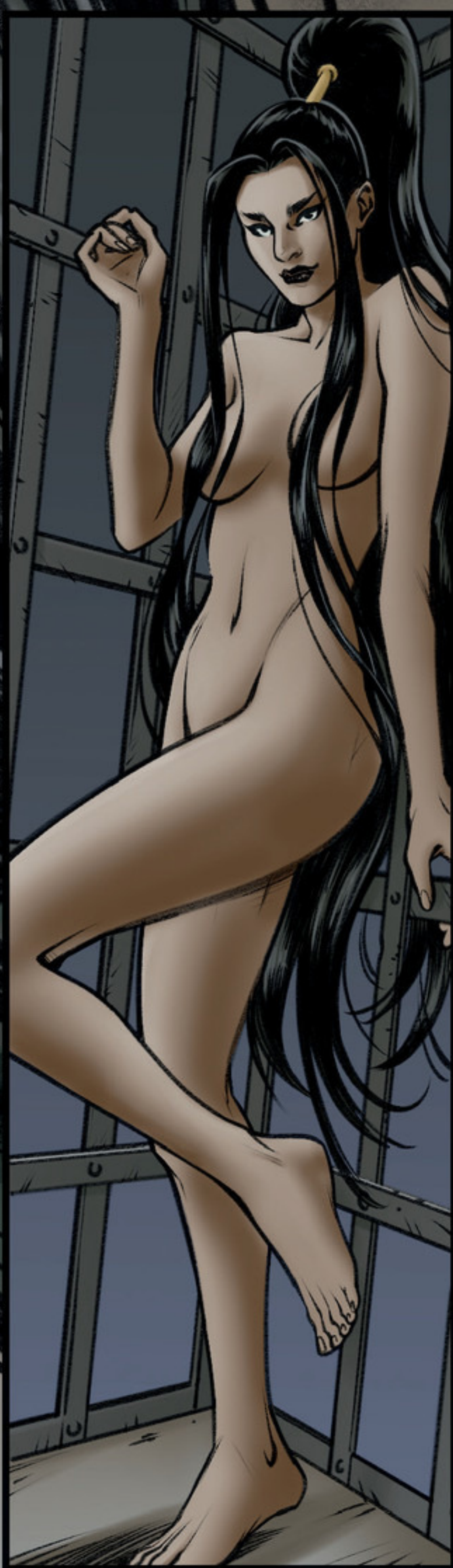
I... AYE,
CAPTAIN!



NOW, LET'S HAVE
A LOOK AT WHAT'S
UNDER THAT HELMET...



B-BY
THE BLOOD
OF LOKI!



YOUR BEAUTY
WOULD MAKE
FREYJA HERSELF
JEALOUS!

COME TO ME,
EASTERN
PRINCESS.



LET ME TASTE
YOUR LIPS.

BRAA O O O M M M M

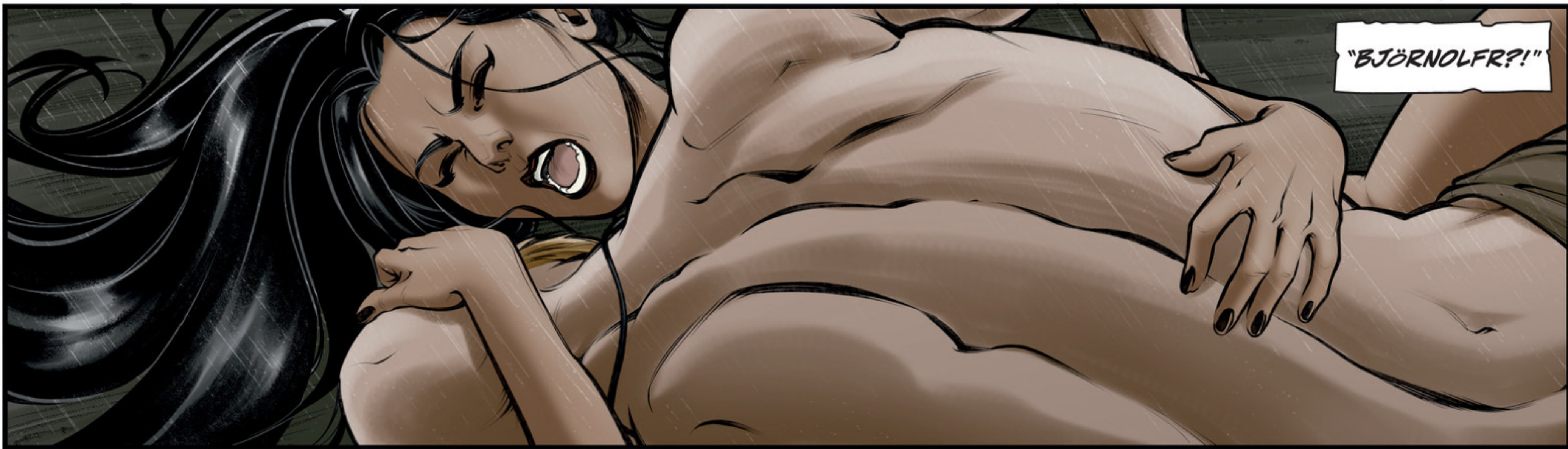


"WE'RE CAPSIZING!"

"BY ODIN, GET US UPRIGHT!"



"BJÖRNOLFR?"



"BJÖRNOLFR?!"



WHAT IN THE... ?!



SHE-DEVIL!



SSSSHHHH!



აოცრება



არცა

დავრტყ

RHHAAAAA!





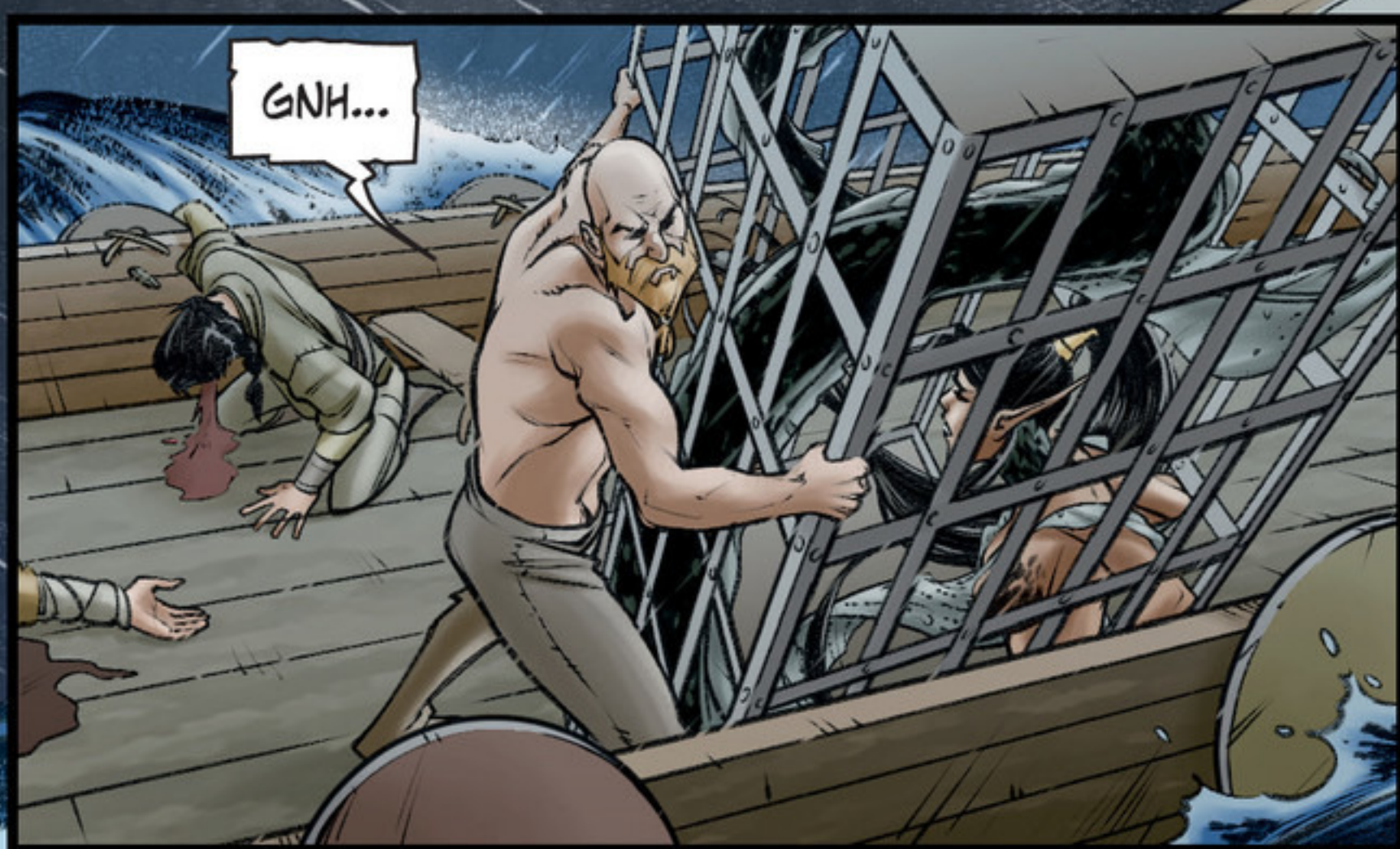
CRAAAK



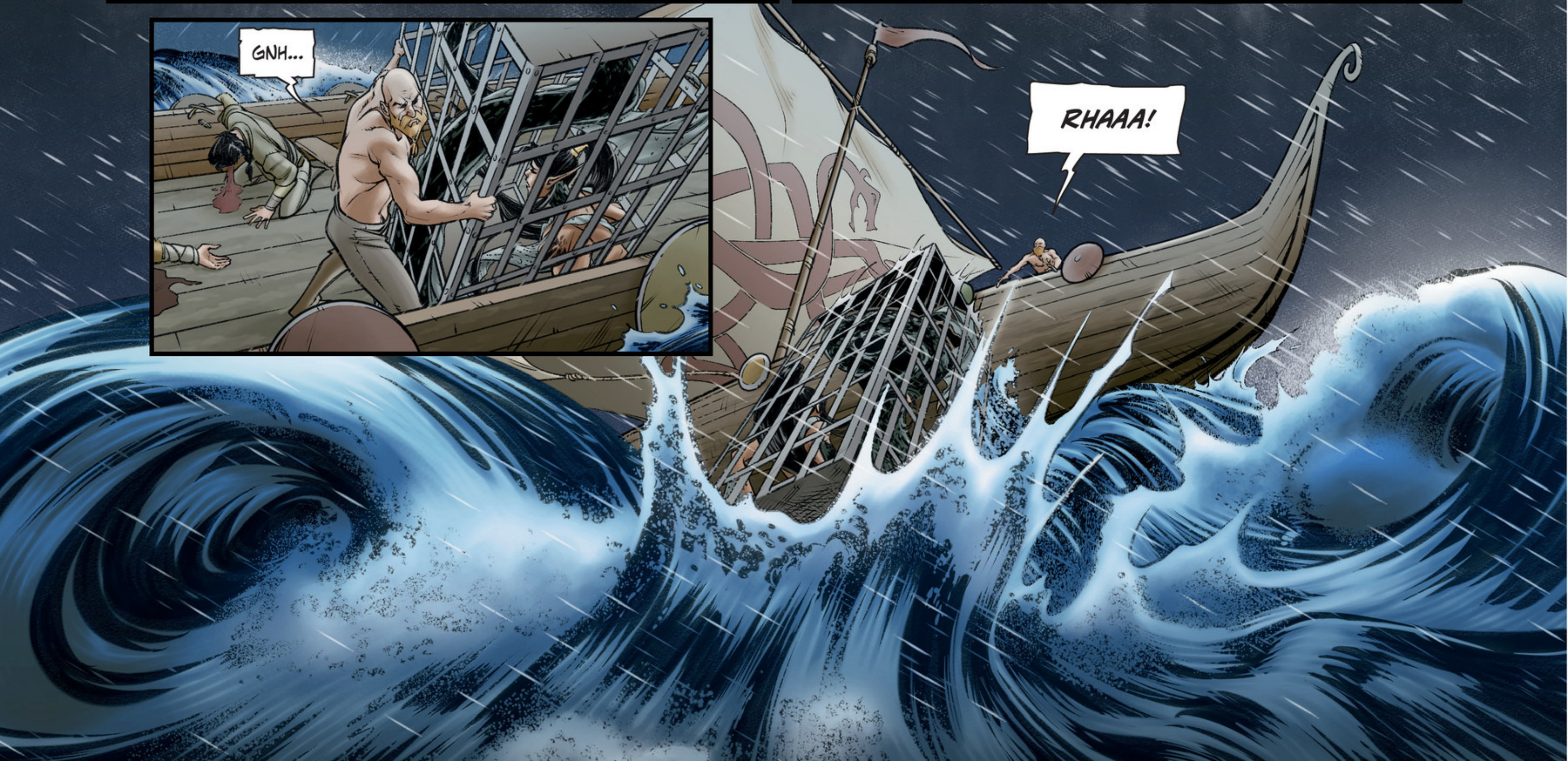
ACCURSED
CREATURE!



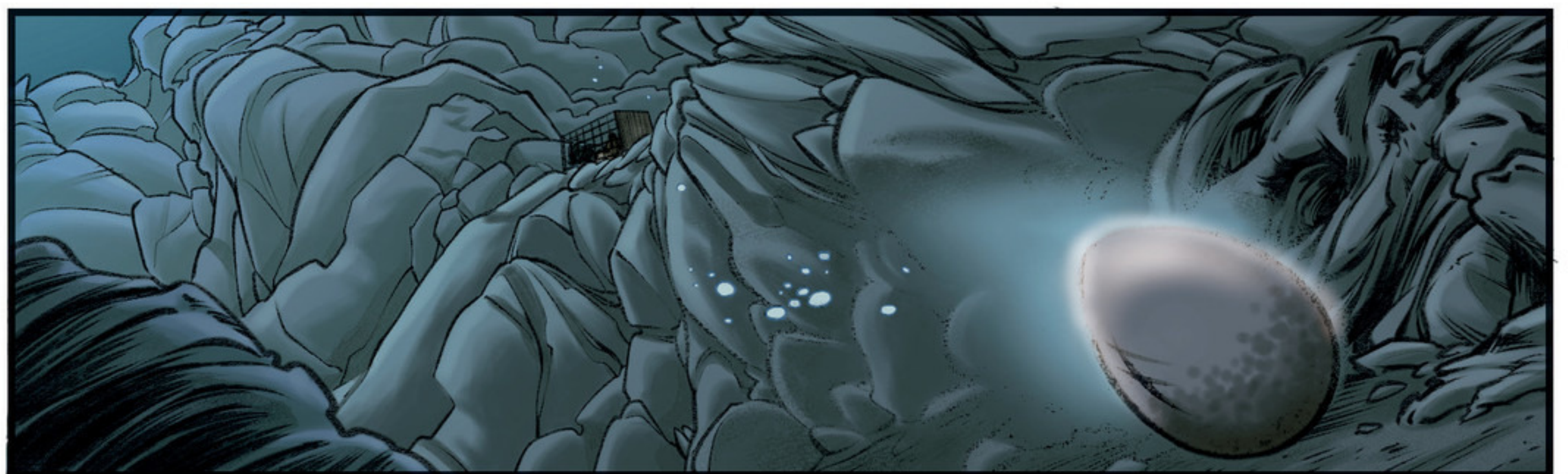
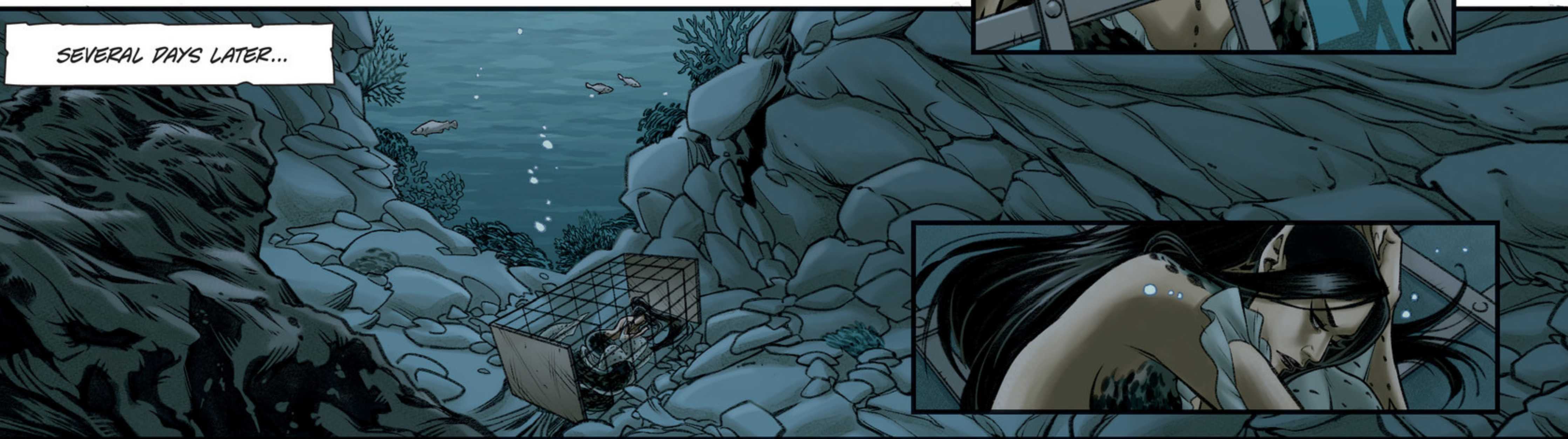
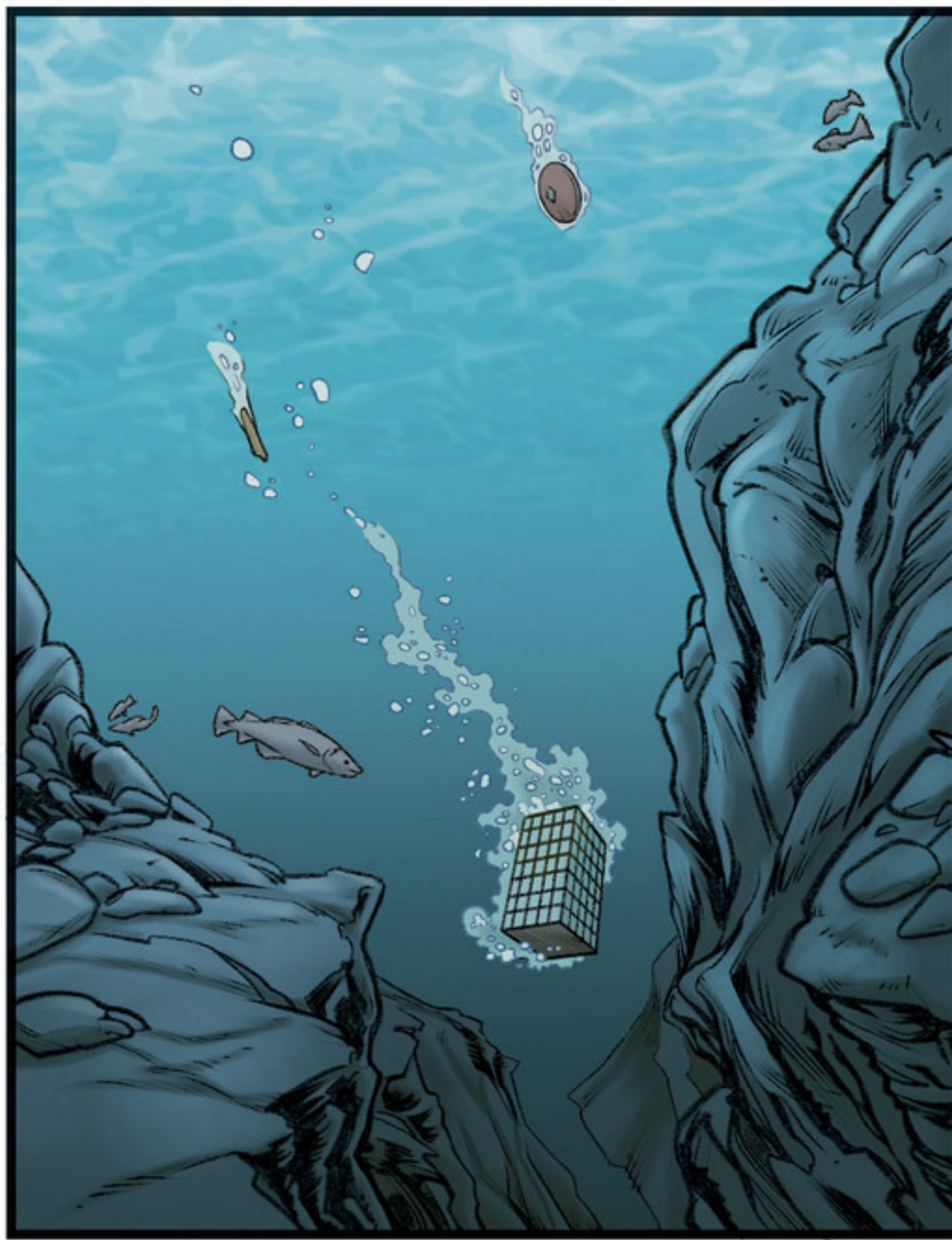
ἰσχυρὸν



GNH...



RHAAA!



MANY MONTHS LATER,
NOT FAR OFF THE
NORSE COAST...

BROMM

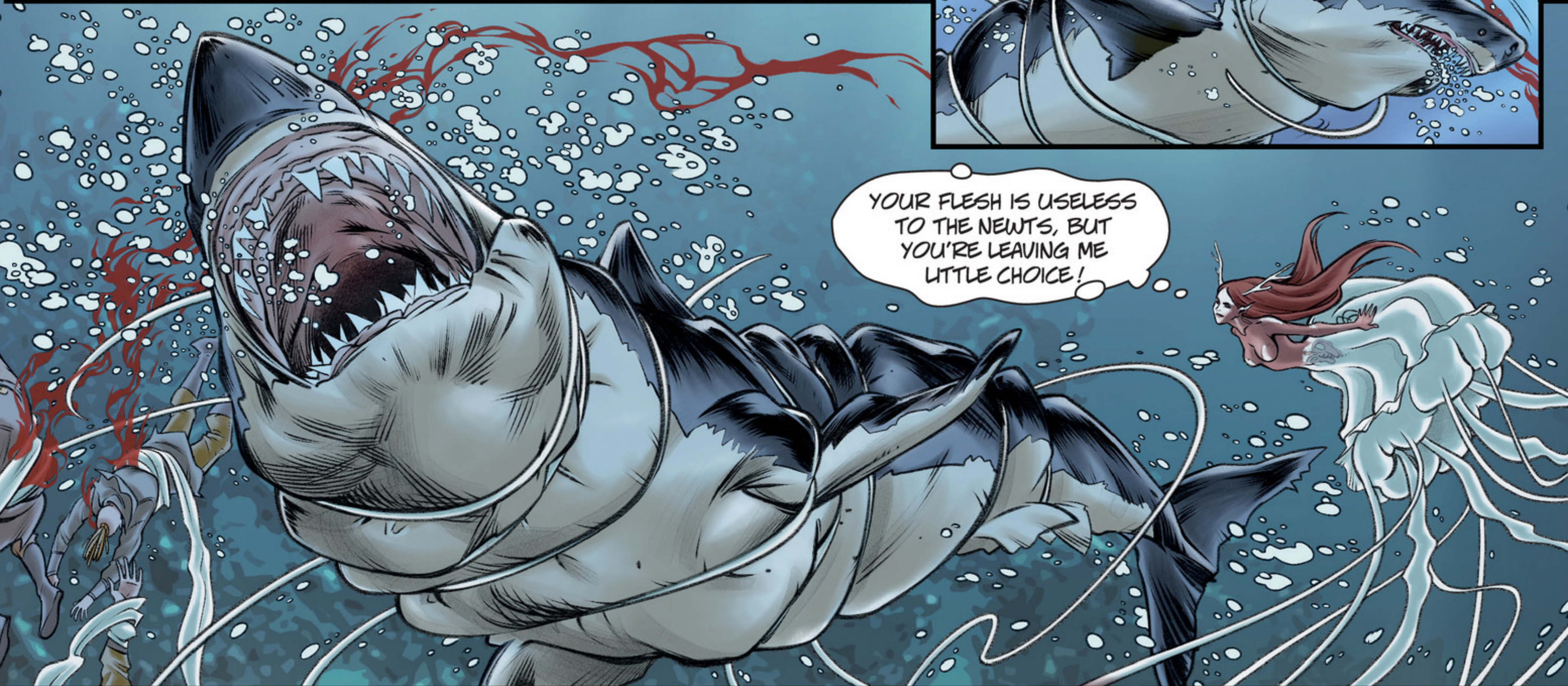
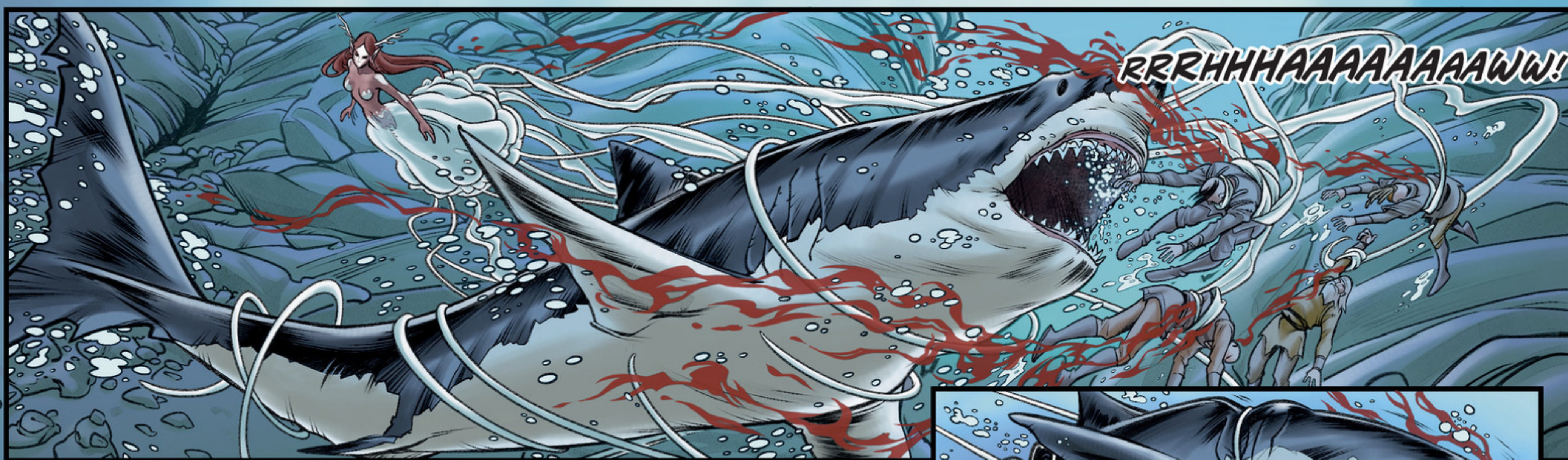
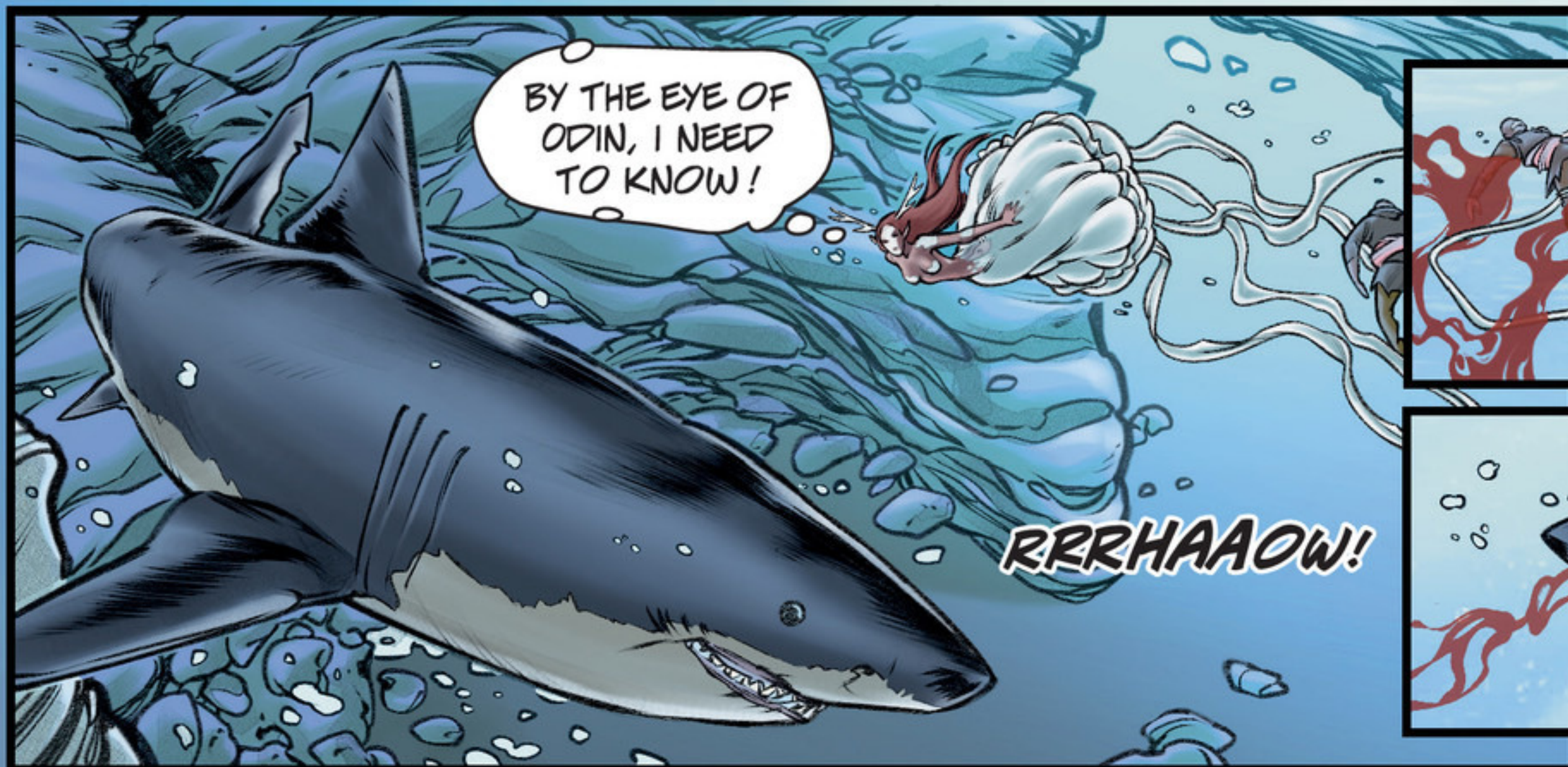
HUITHAI*...
STUPID, FEROCIOUS,
CREATURE...

*GREAT WHITE SHARK.

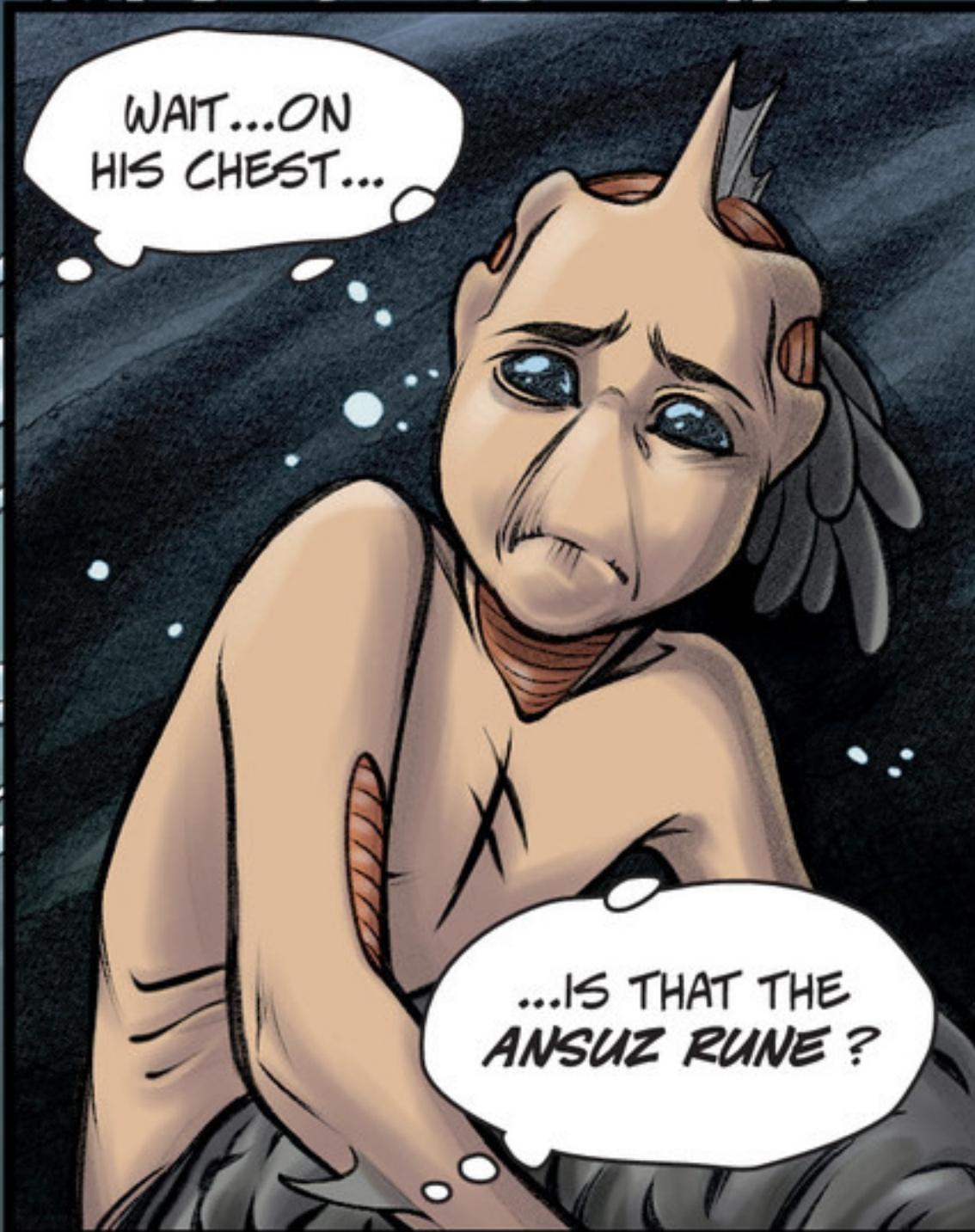
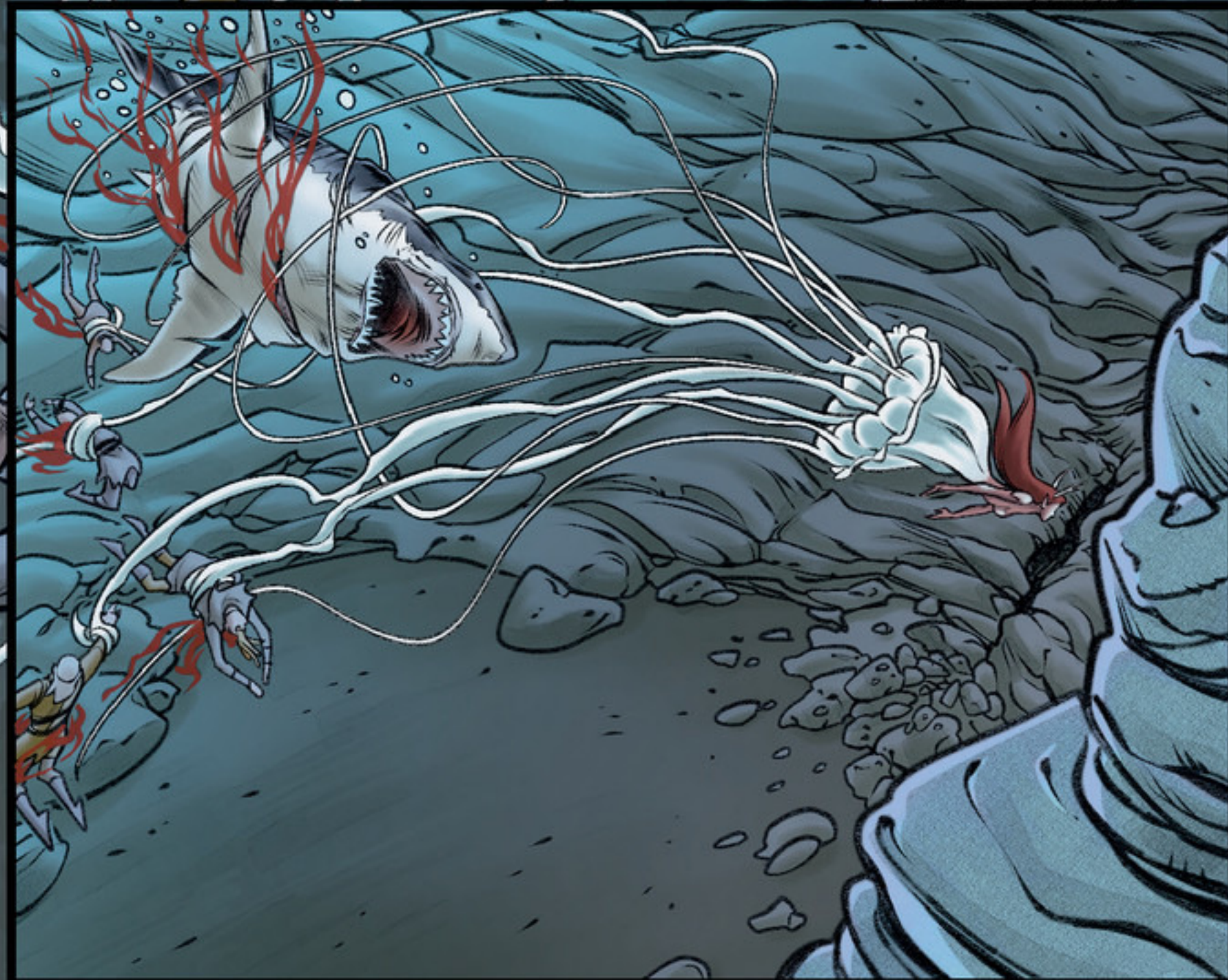
WHAT COULD HAVE
DRIVEN YOU INTO
SUCH A RAGE?

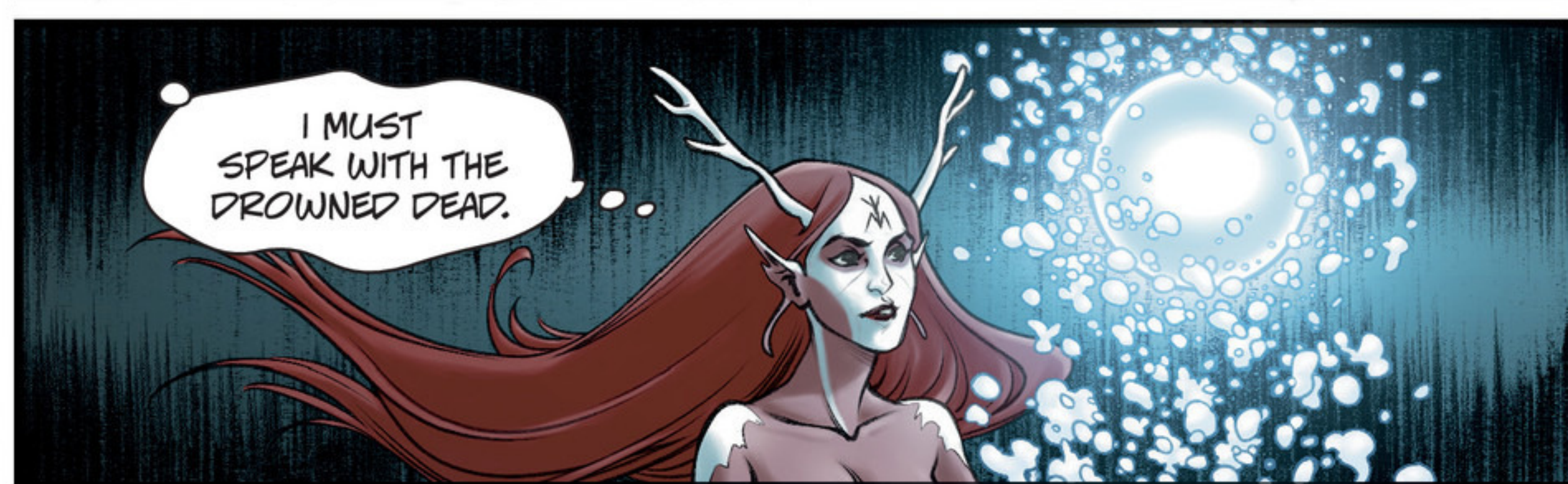
BROMM

RRRHHHAAAAAAW!



YOUR FLESH IS USELESS TO THE NEWTS, BUT YOU'RE LEAVING ME LITTLE CHOICE!







SPEAK... WE...
HEAR... YOU... SOVEREIGN...
OF... THE... SEAS.

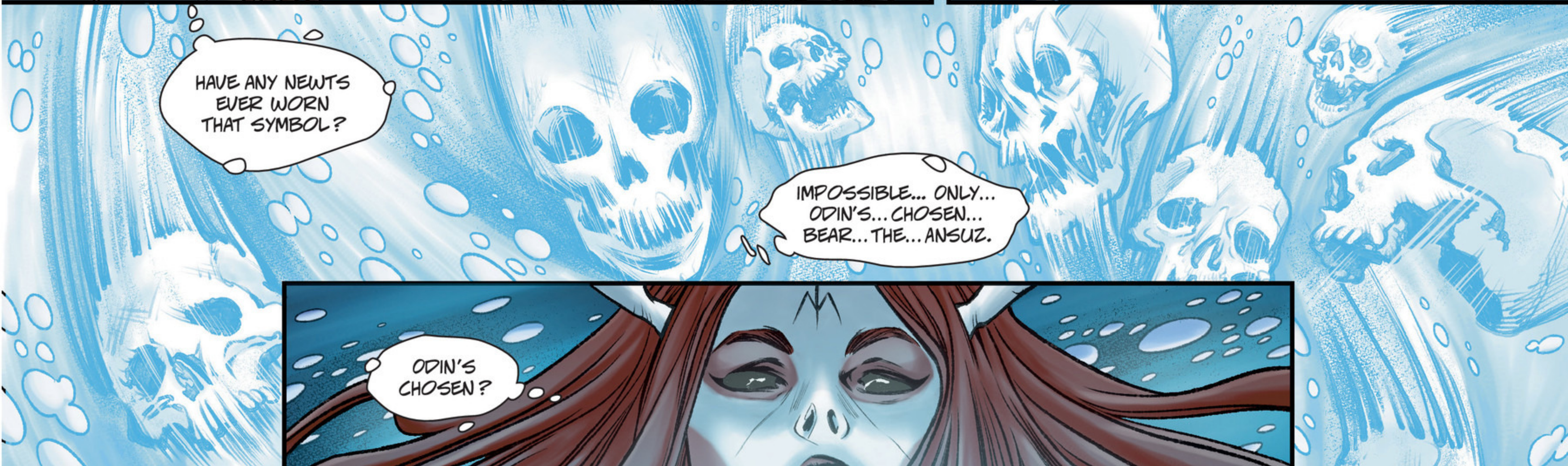
THE ANSUZ HAS
APPEARED... IN A
MOST UNUSUAL
FORM.



ANSUZ... IS... THE...
RUNE... OF... THE...
AESIR*... GODS... AND...
THE... ORIGIN... OF...
KNOWLEDGE.

IT... SYMBOLIZES... THE...
GIFTS... OF... WISDOM...
AND... OF... MAGIC.

*IN NORSE MYTHOLOGY, THE AESIR FORM THE PRINCIPAL PANTHEON OF GODS ASSOCIATED WITH, OR RELATED TO, ODIN, RESIDING IN THE LAND OF ASGARD.



HAVE ANY NEWTS
EVER WORN
THAT SYMBOL?

IMPOSSIBLE... ONLY...
ODIN'S... CHOSEN...
BEAR... THE... ANSUZ.

ODIN'S
CHOSEN?



I CANNOT
RISK SENDING
YOU BACK TO
YOUR KIND.



BUT HOW CAN I
KEEP YOU HIDDEN AWAY
FROM MY HUSBAND? IF HE
DISCOVERS YOU HERE, HE'LL
FLY INTO A RAGE THAT WILL
MAKE THE FJORDS AND
COASTS SHAKE.

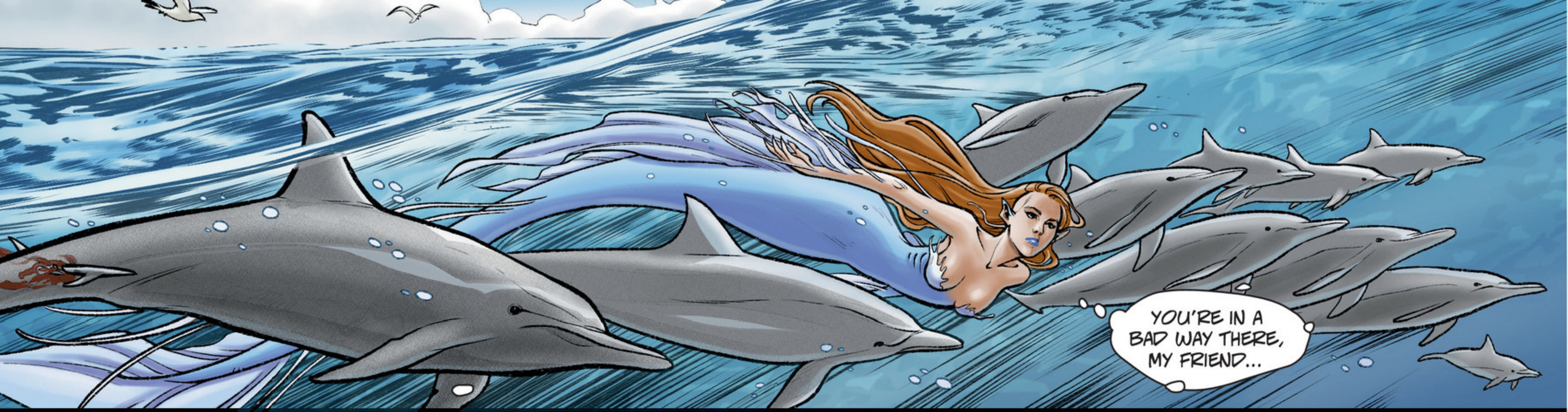


NEWTS CANNOT
BE AMONG THE SIRENS.
THAT IS THE LAW.

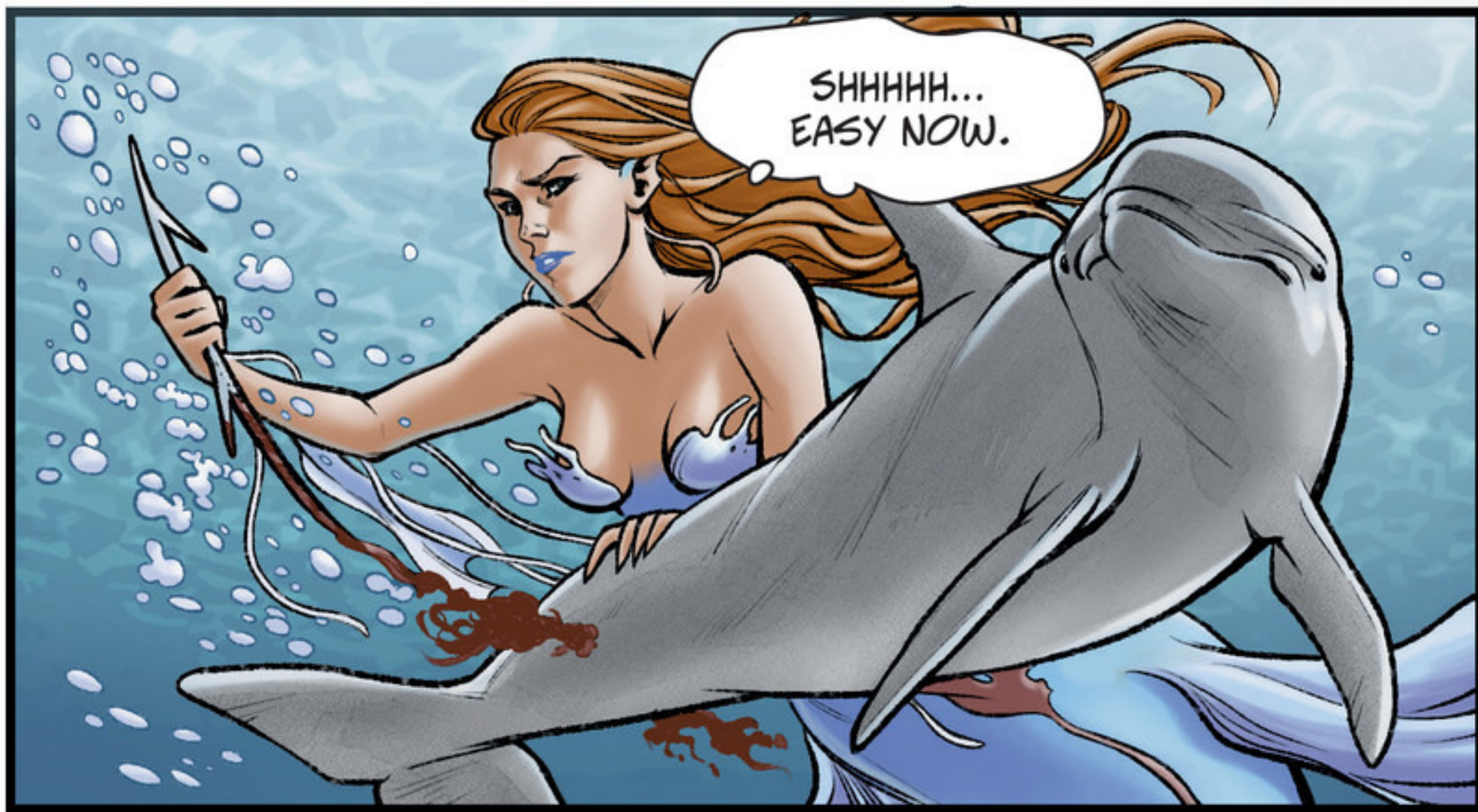


UNLESS...

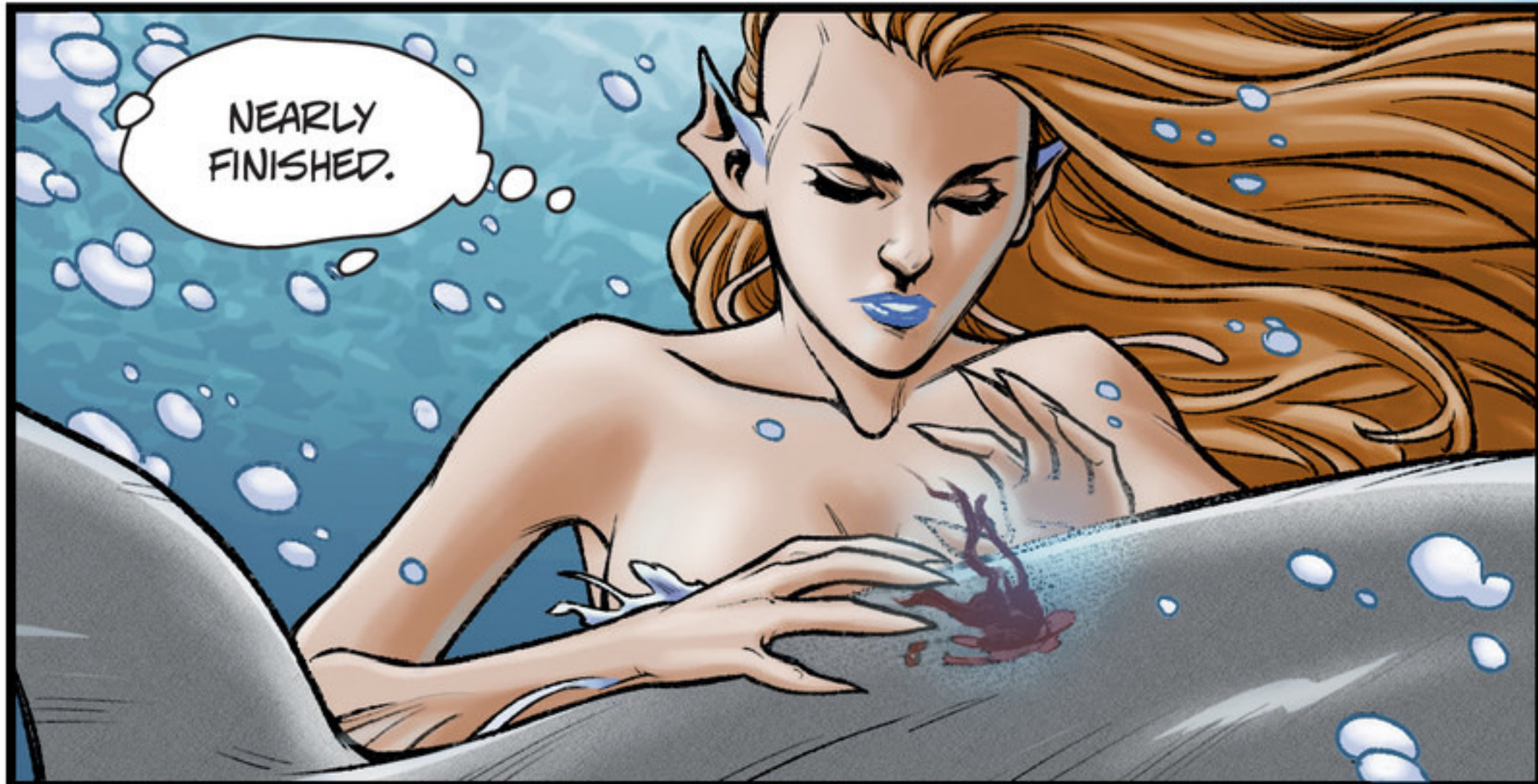




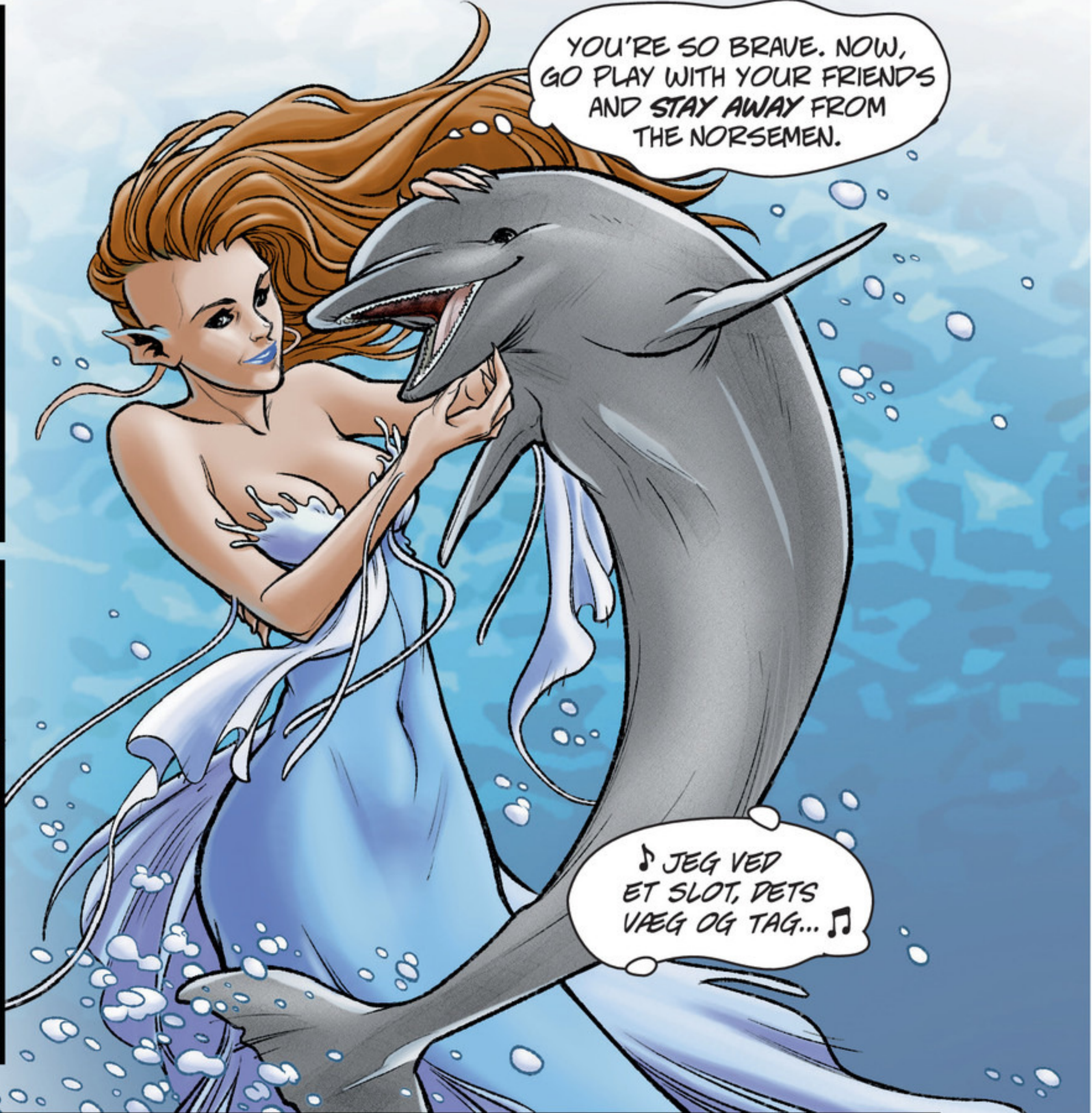
YOU'RE IN A
BAD WAY THERE,
MY FRIEND...



SHHHHH...
EASY NOW.



NEARLY
FINISHED.

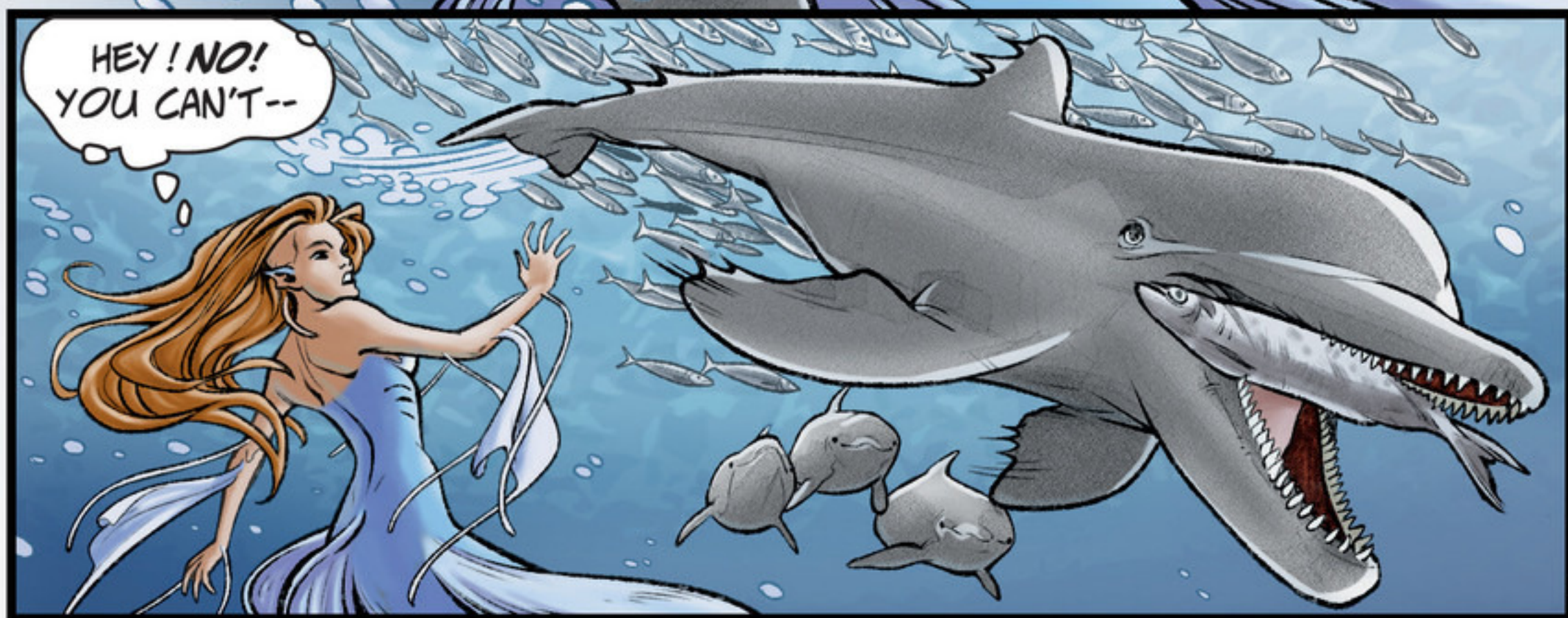


YOU'RE SO BRAVE. NOW,
GO PLAY WITH YOUR FRIENDS
AND STAY AWAY FROM
THE NORSEMEN.

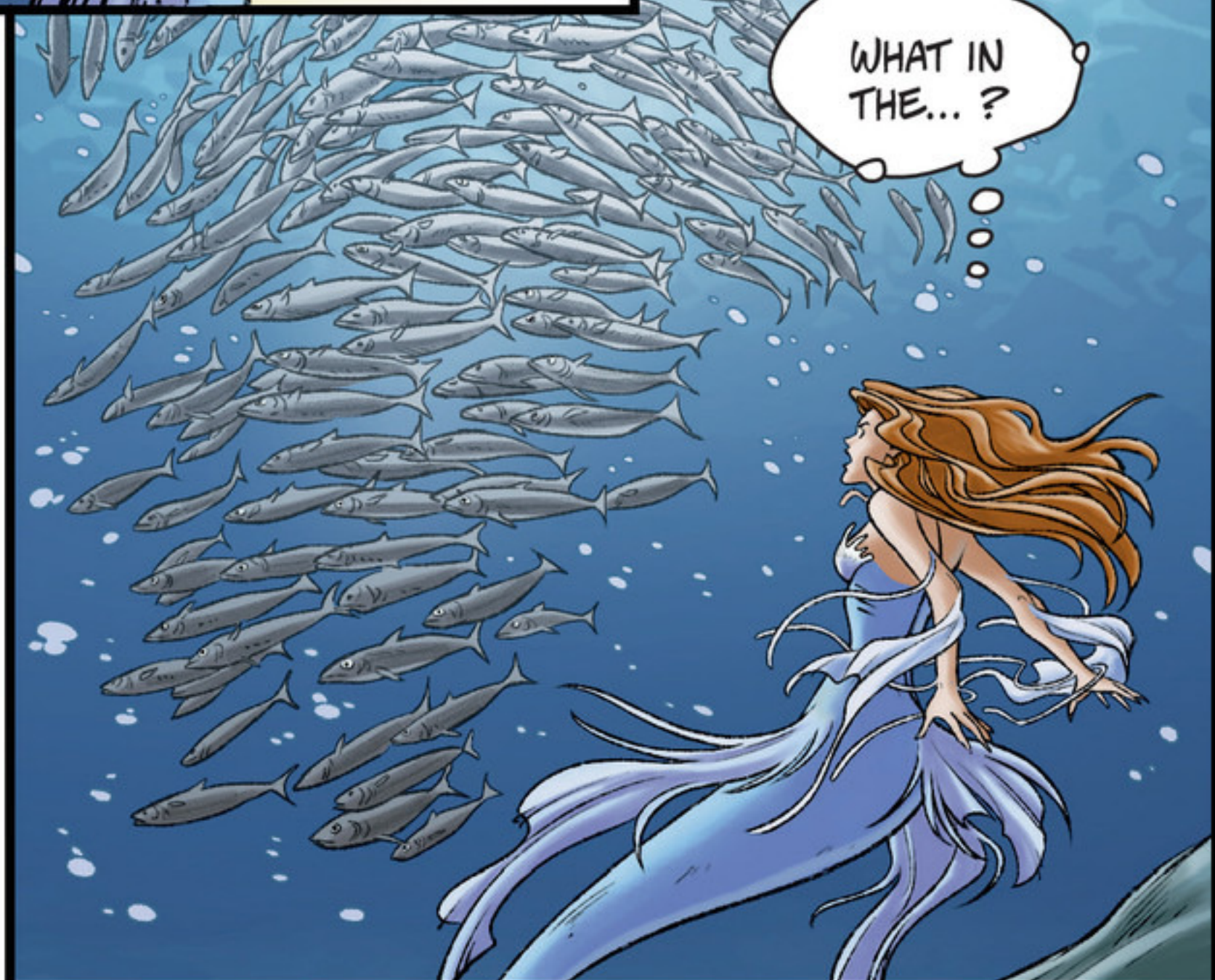
♪ JEG VED
ET SLOT, DETS
VÆG OG TAG... ♪



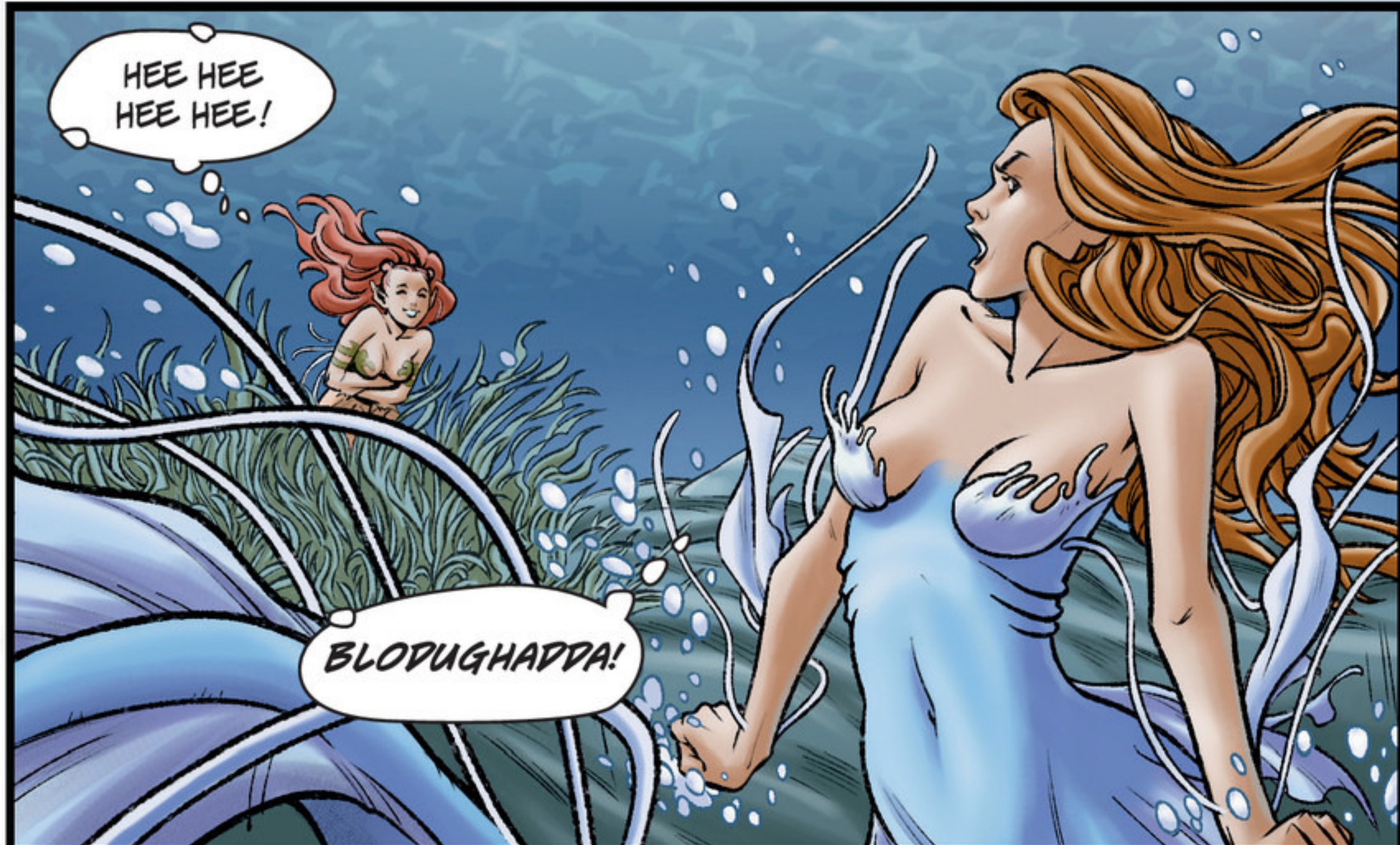
♪ ER
GRØNNE BØLGER
LAG PÅ LAG... ♪



HEY! NO!
YOU CAN'T--



WHAT IN
THE... ?



HEE HEE
HEE HEE!

BLODUGHADDA!

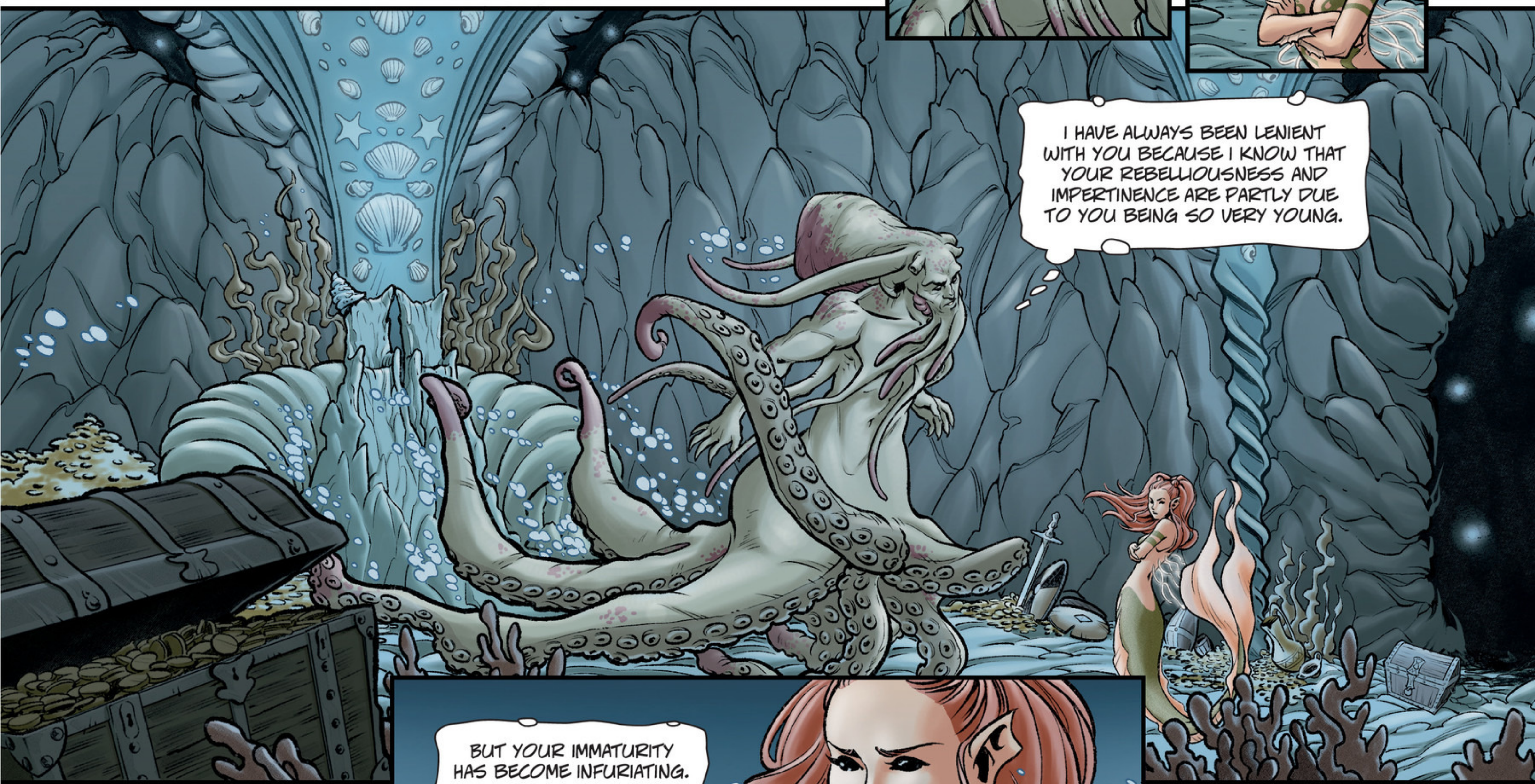
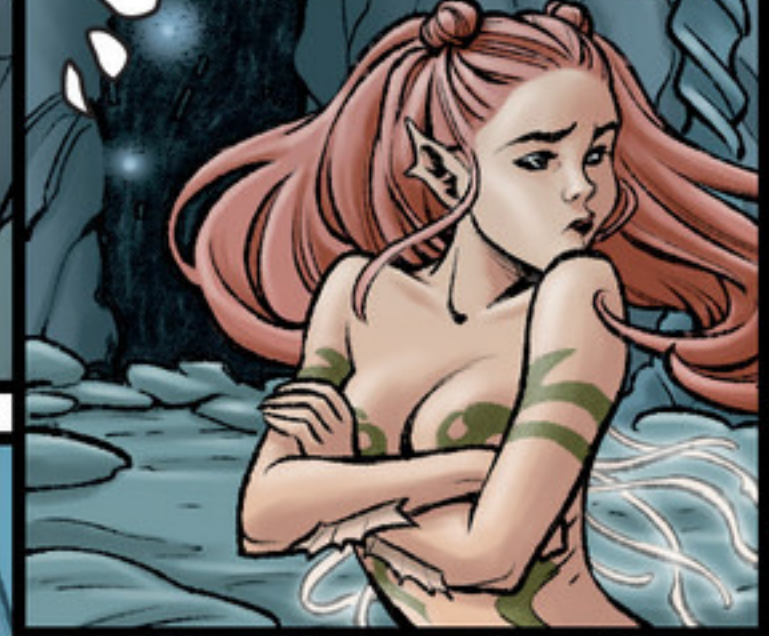


THAT IS ENOUGH!

YOUR ATTITUDE IS *INSUFFERABLE!* HAVE YOU NOTHING BETTER TO DO THAN MISTREAT YOUR SISTERS AND SABOTAGE THEIR WORK? POOR UDR IS DEVASTATED BY WHAT YOU DID!



YOUR POWERS ARE TREMENDOUS, BLODUGHADDA. IT IS HIGH TIME YOU USED THEM MORE WISELY.



I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LENIENT WITH YOU BECAUSE I KNOW THAT YOUR REBELLIOUSNESS AND IMPERTINENCE ARE PARTLY DUE TO YOU BEING SO VERY YOUNG.

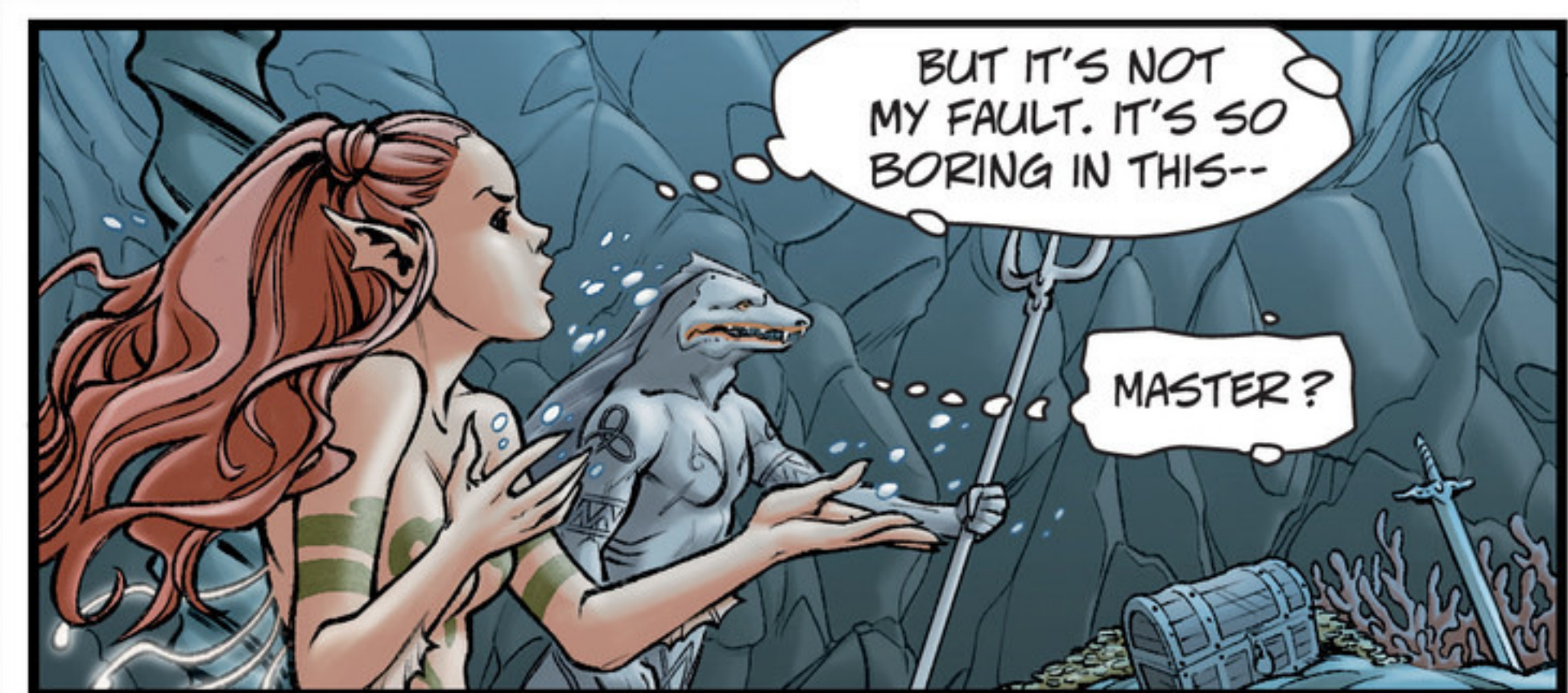


BUT YOUR IMMATURITY HAS BECOME INFURIATING.



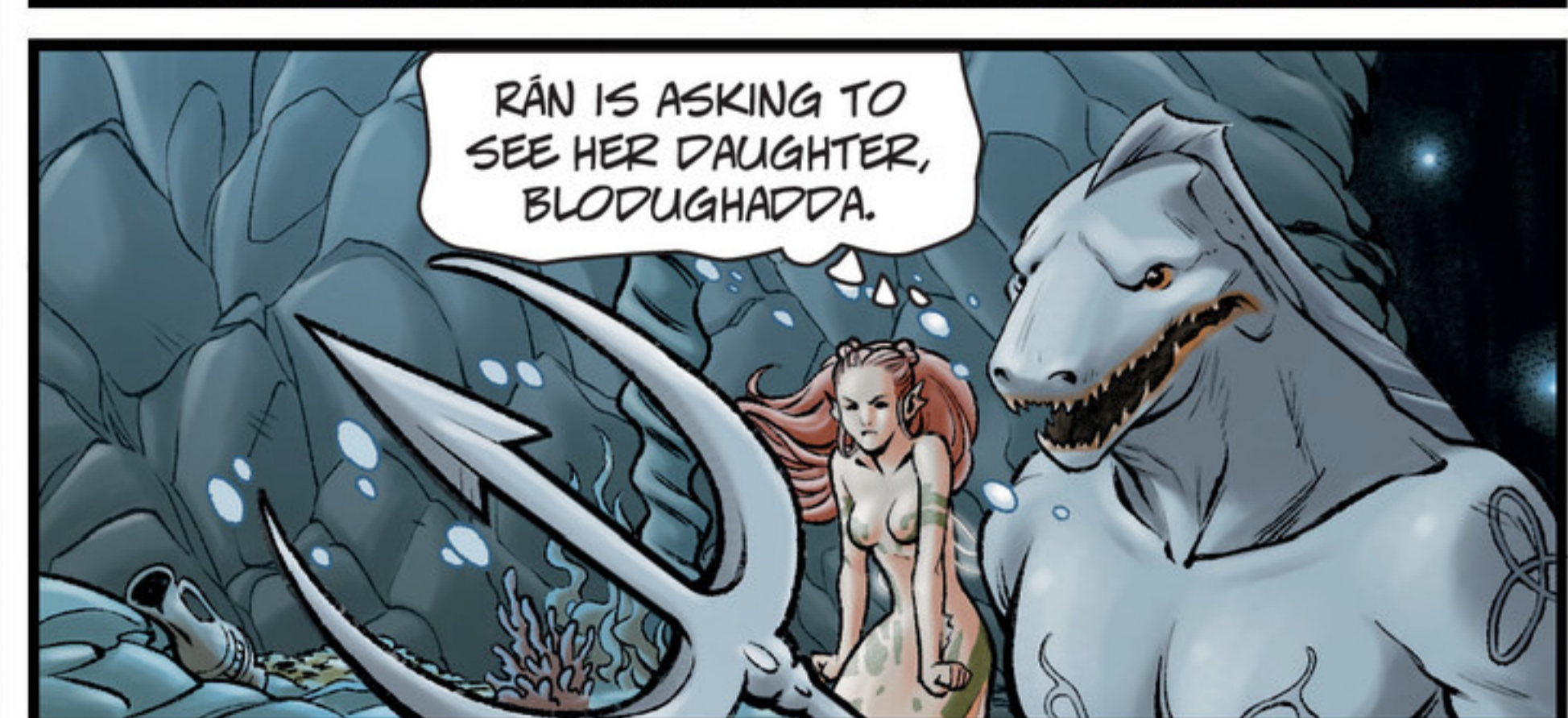
HOW *DARE* YOU SMIRK AT ME?!

NEXT TIME YOU GET UP TO MISCHIEF, I SHALL NOT BE SO MAGNANIMOUS. I GUARANTEE YOU A PUNISHMENT YOU WILL *NEVER* FORGET!

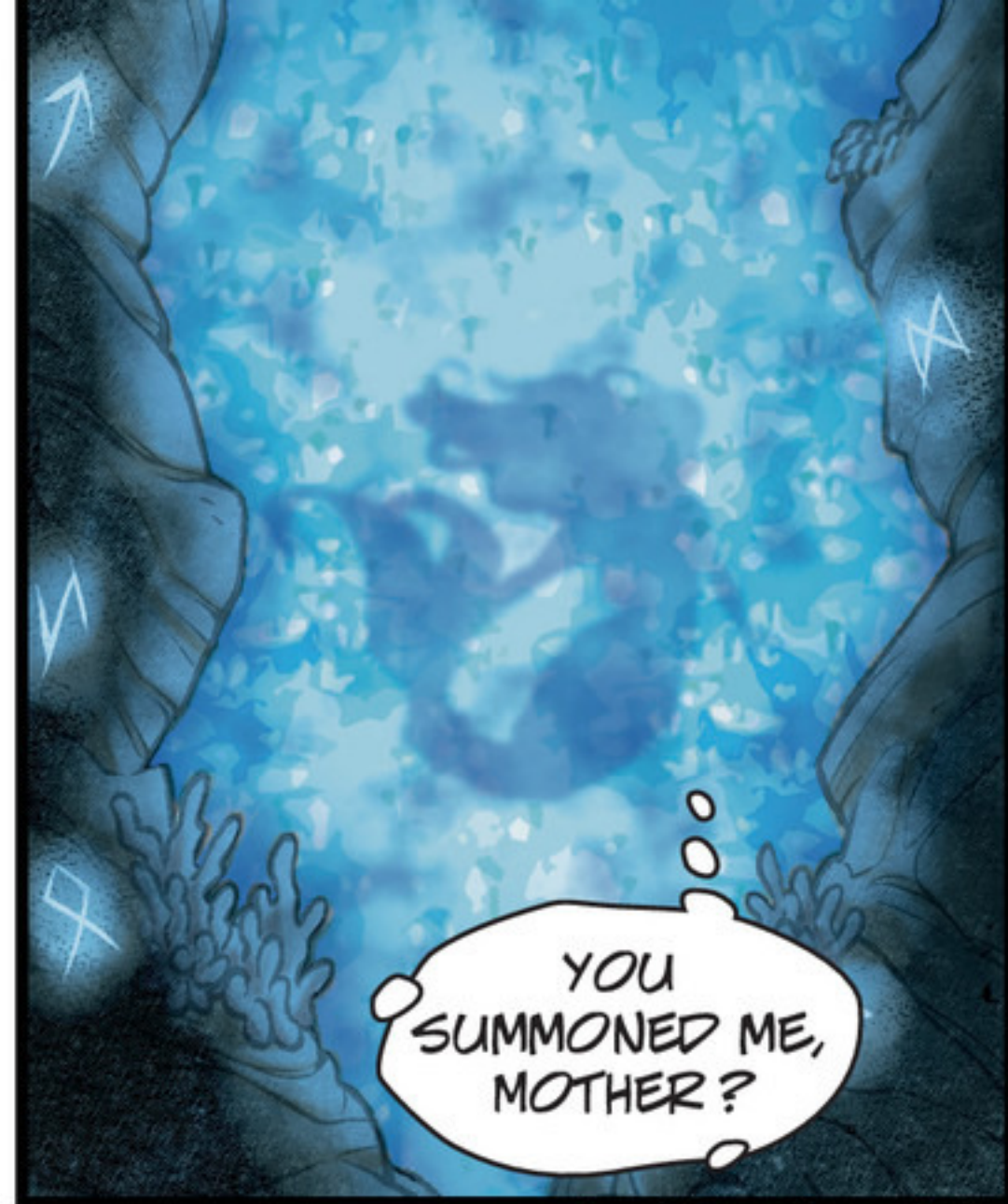


BUT IT'S NOT MY FAULT. IT'S SO BORING IN THIS--

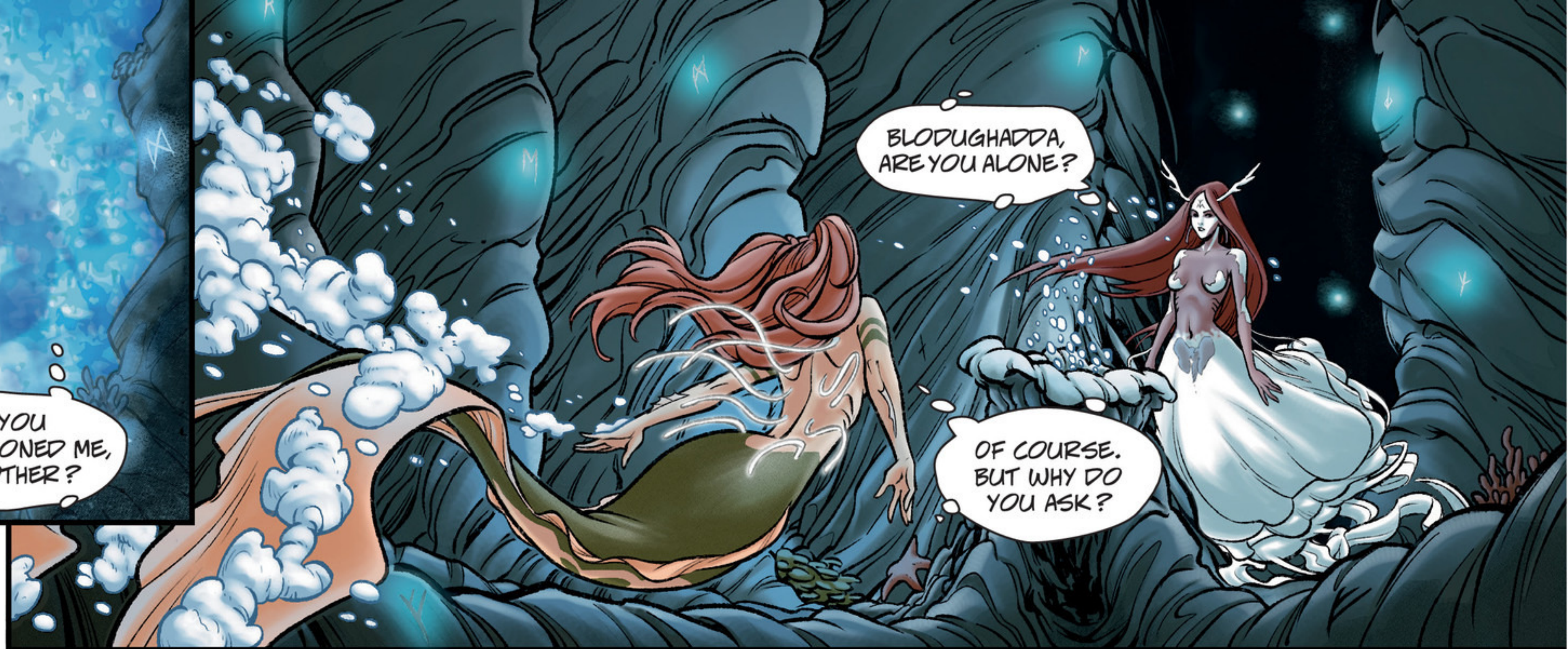
MASTER?



RÂN IS ASKING TO SEE HER DAUGHTER, BLODUGHADDA.



YOU
SUMMONED ME,
MOTHER?



BLODUGHADDA,
ARE YOU ALONE?

OF COURSE.
BUT WHY DO
YOU ASK?

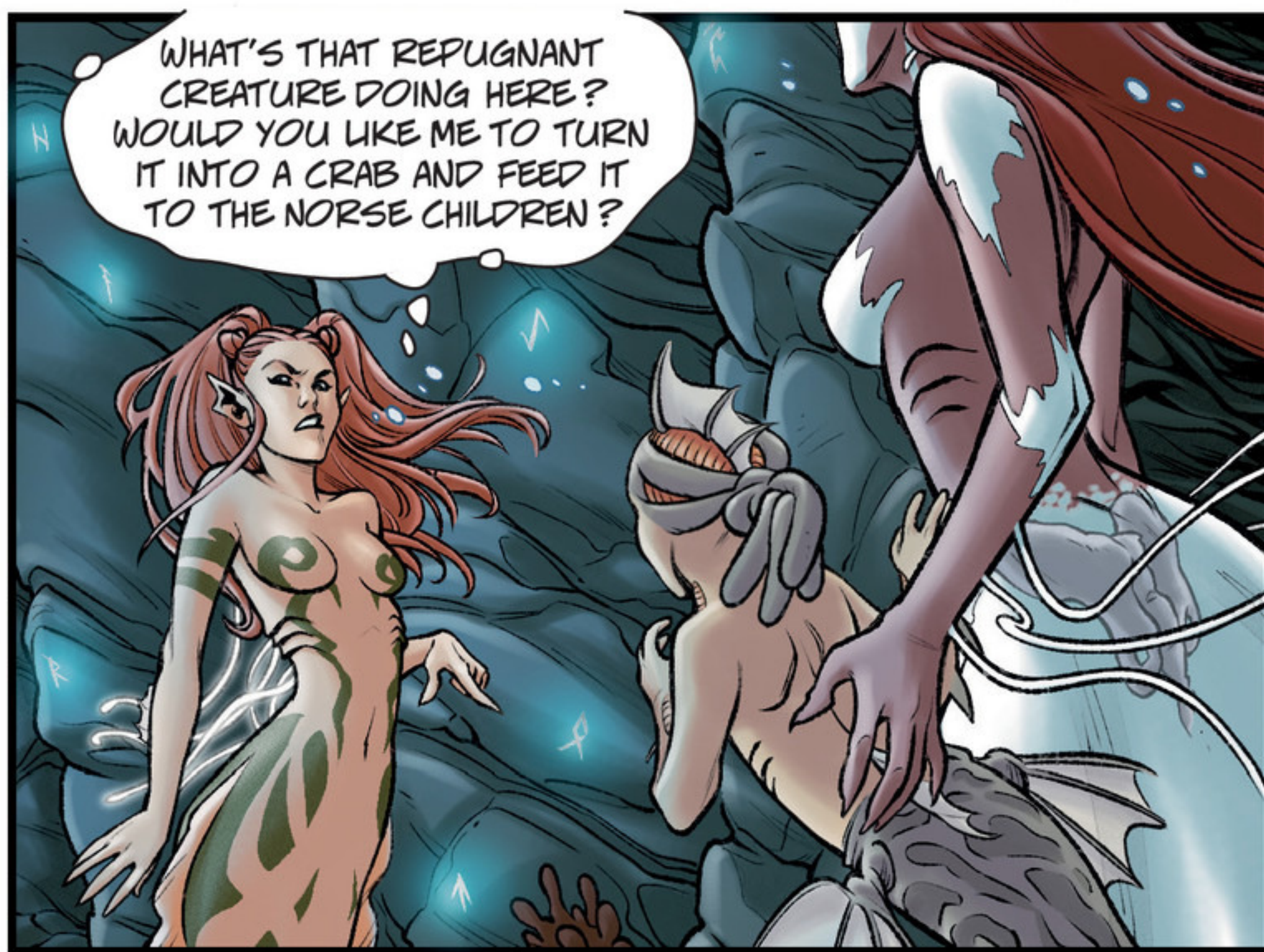


COME HERE. AND REMEMBER,
YOU MUST KEEP YOUR EMOTIONS
IN CHECK WHEN I REVEAL WHAT
I WISH TO SHOW YOU...

MOTHER?
YOU'RE MAKING
ME ALL THE MORE
CURIOUS.



WHY ARE
YOU BEING SO
MYST-- ?!



WHAT'S THAT REPUGNANT
CREATURE DOING HERE?
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TURN
IT INTO A CRAB AND FEED IT
TO THE NORSE CHILDREN?

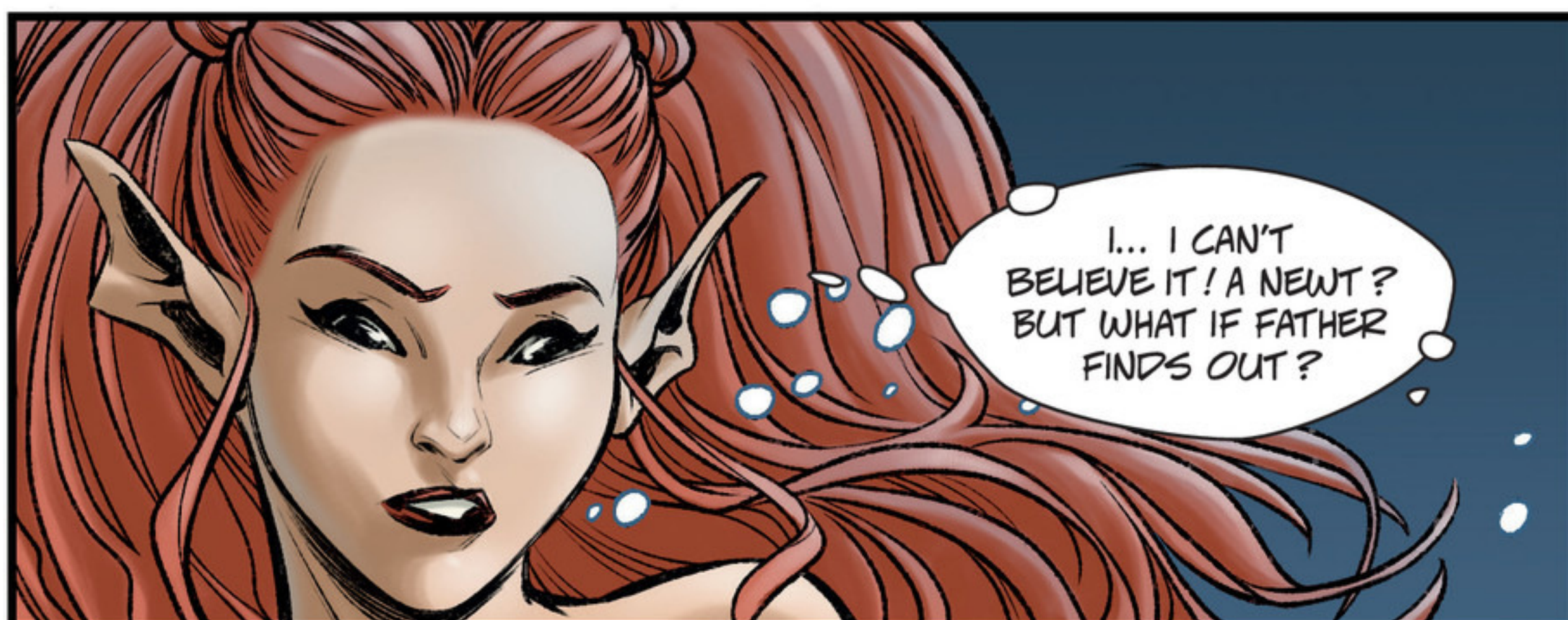


CALM DOWN. I'VE
NAMED HIM GILDWIN. HE'S
NO ORDINARY NEWT,
YOU SEE...

WHAT IS
THAT?



THIS MARK IS THE ANSUZ,
THE RUNE OF THE AESIR
GODS. ITS BEARER MIGHT
BE CAPABLE OF DEVELOPING
SUPERNATURAL POWERS.



I... I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT! A NEWT?
BUT WHAT IF FATHER
FINDS OUT?

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I
NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE. I'D
LIKE YOU TO KEEP AN EYE
ON HIM, TO DISCOVER WHAT
HE IS AND WHERE HE CAME
FROM... WITHOUT AEGIR
FINDING OUT.

I... I
DON'T KNOW
IF I--

THE BONDS BETWEEN
US ARE STRONG. APART
FROM OUR BLOOD, WE
ALSO SHARE THE ART
OF MAGIC.

THAT IS WHY
YOU ARE THE **ONLY**
ONE OF YOUR
SISTERS WHOM I CAN
TRUST ENTIRELY WITH
SUCH A TASK.

THINK HOW YOU CAN
BENEFIT FROM THIS OMEN.
YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF HIM AND
HELP HIS GIFT TO EMERGE.

AND PERHAPS DEVOTING
YOUR ENERGY TO THIS PROJECT
WILL RELIEVE YOUR BOREDOM?
I HEAR THAT YOUR SISTER UDR
HAD TO PUT UP WITH MORE OF
YOUR MISCHIEF AGAIN.

I CAN'T HELP IT.
I GET BORED IN
THIS BIG OLD
FORTRESS!

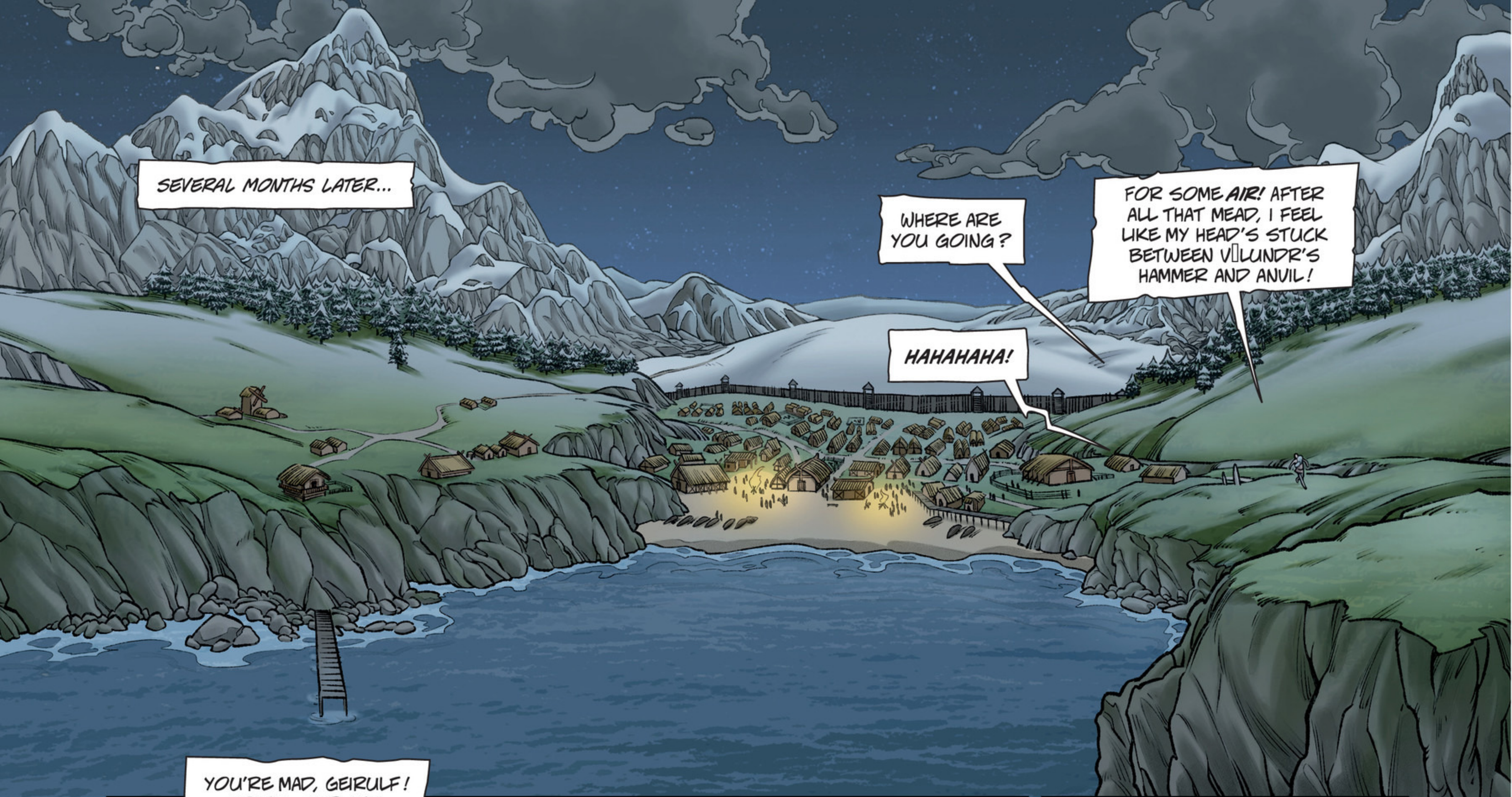
I KNOW.
SO YOU SHOULD
JUMP AT THIS CHANCE.

NEWT'S HAVE A MUCH SHORTER
LIFESPAN THAN WE DO, AND THEY AGE
A LOT QUICKER. IN A FEW WEEKS' TIME,
HE SHOULD REACH PUBERTY, AND HIS
POWERS SHOULD MANIFEST.

HOW CAN YOU
BE SURE?

BECAUSE, UP UNTIL NOW,
ONLY TWO BEINGS HAVE EVER
CARRIED THIS MARK...

...AND YOU'RE
THE OTHER ONE,
BLODUGHADDA.



SEVERAL MONTHS LATER...

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

FOR SOME AIR! AFTER ALL THAT MEAD, I FEEL LIKE MY HEAD'S STUCK BETWEEN VILUNDR'S HAMMER AND ANVIL!

HAHAHAHA!



YOU'RE MAD, GEIRULF! YOU'LL SLIP AND BREAK YOUR NECK!

GET LOST, YNGVI!



I JUST WANT TO HAVE A QUIET PISS, BY ODIN!



Jeg ved e slot, det's væg og tag...
AAAAAAH...



er grønne bølger lag på lag...
GH...



ej bygge spurvene derpå...



I'M SO THIRSTY I COULD DRINK TYRIFJORDEN DRY! I'M GOING BACK. HE CAN COME AND JOIN US WHEN HE'S FINI--

WHAT IN THE...?



GEIRULF! WHAT IS GOING ON?

nej lo skibe per fugle sm...



dets søjler er stride strømme...

GH...



W-WITCHCRAFT!



WITCHCRAFT! WITCHCRAFT!



HELP! HELP!



LOOK AT GEIRULF!

hvor hvaler

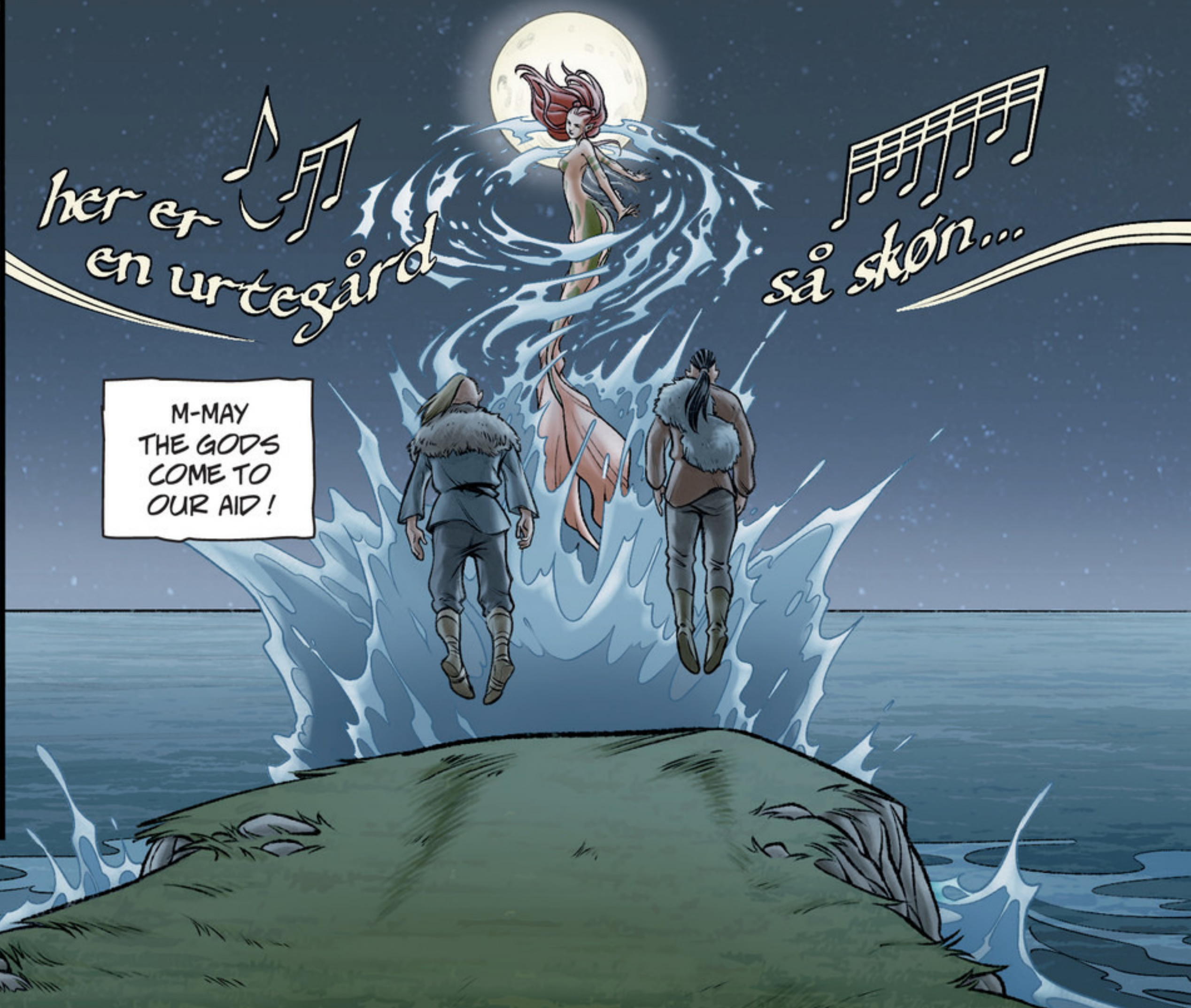
og delfiner svømme...

AND YNGVI!

THEY... THEY'RE FLYING LIKE GULLS!



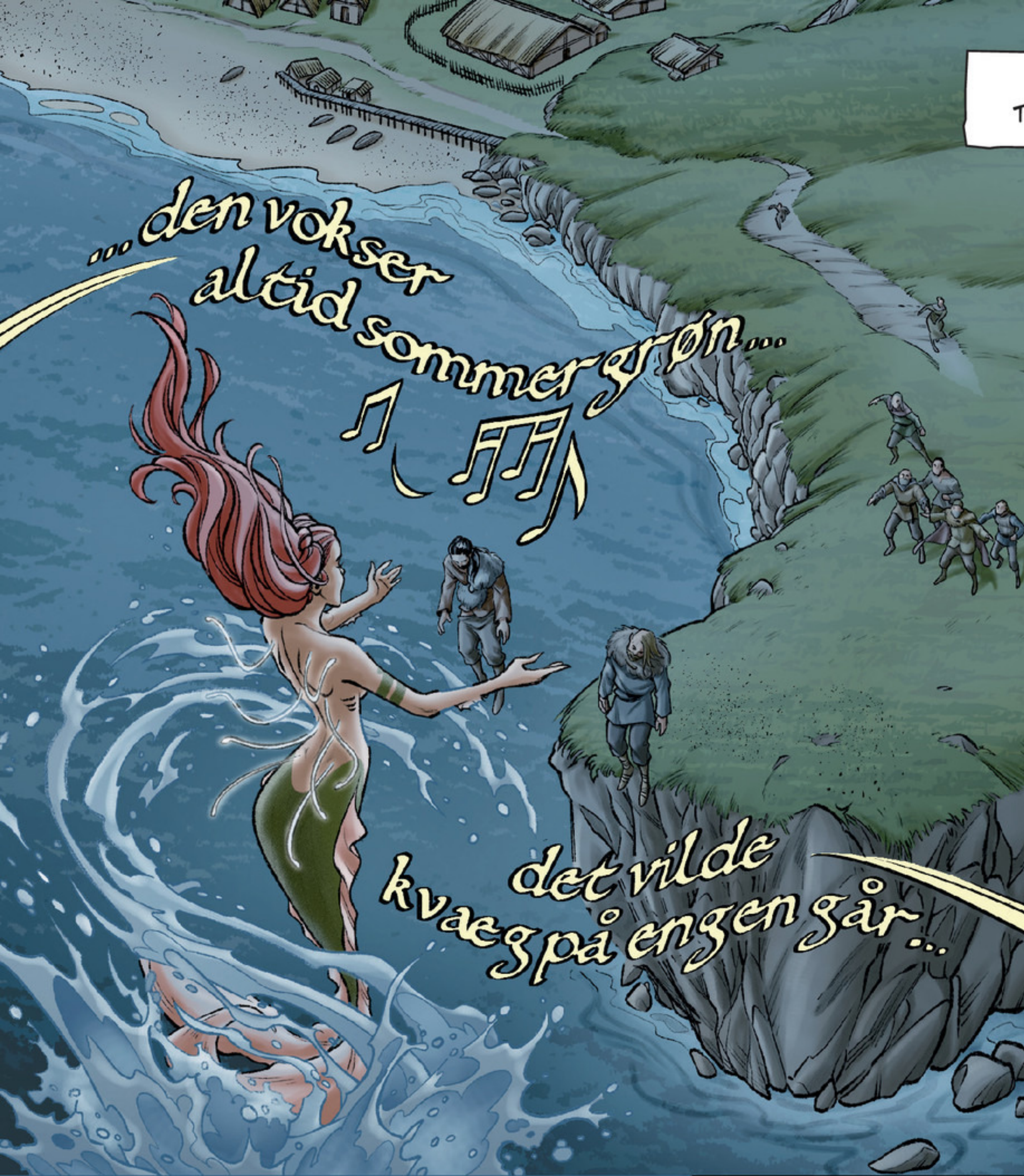
THERE!



her er en urtegård

så skøn...

M-MAY THE GODS COME TO OUR AID!



WHAT IS
THAT LAMENT?

WHERE'S IT
FROM?

IT'S... IT'S HER!
I RECOGNIZE HER!

THE WITCH WITH THE
FISH'S TAIL AND BLOOD-
RED HAIR! SHE CARRIED
MY COUSIN OFF BY
LURING HIM AWAY WITH
THAT EVIL VOICE!

hvor ta
kruse
stun

STAY AWAY
FROM HER!

COVER YOUR
EARS! THAT'S THE
ONLY WAY TO AVOID
BEING BEWITCHED!

ejstormen når
til disse zoner...



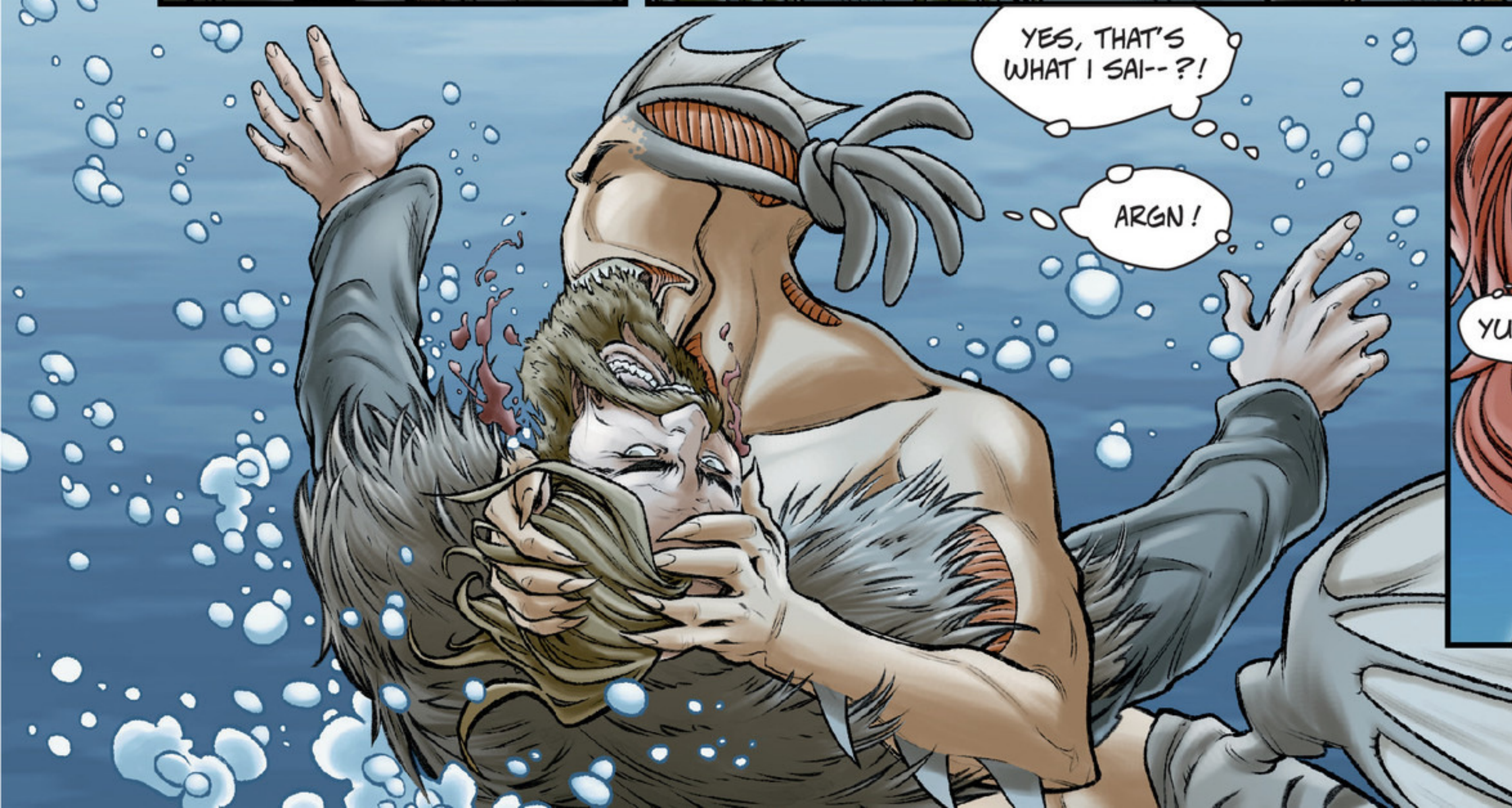
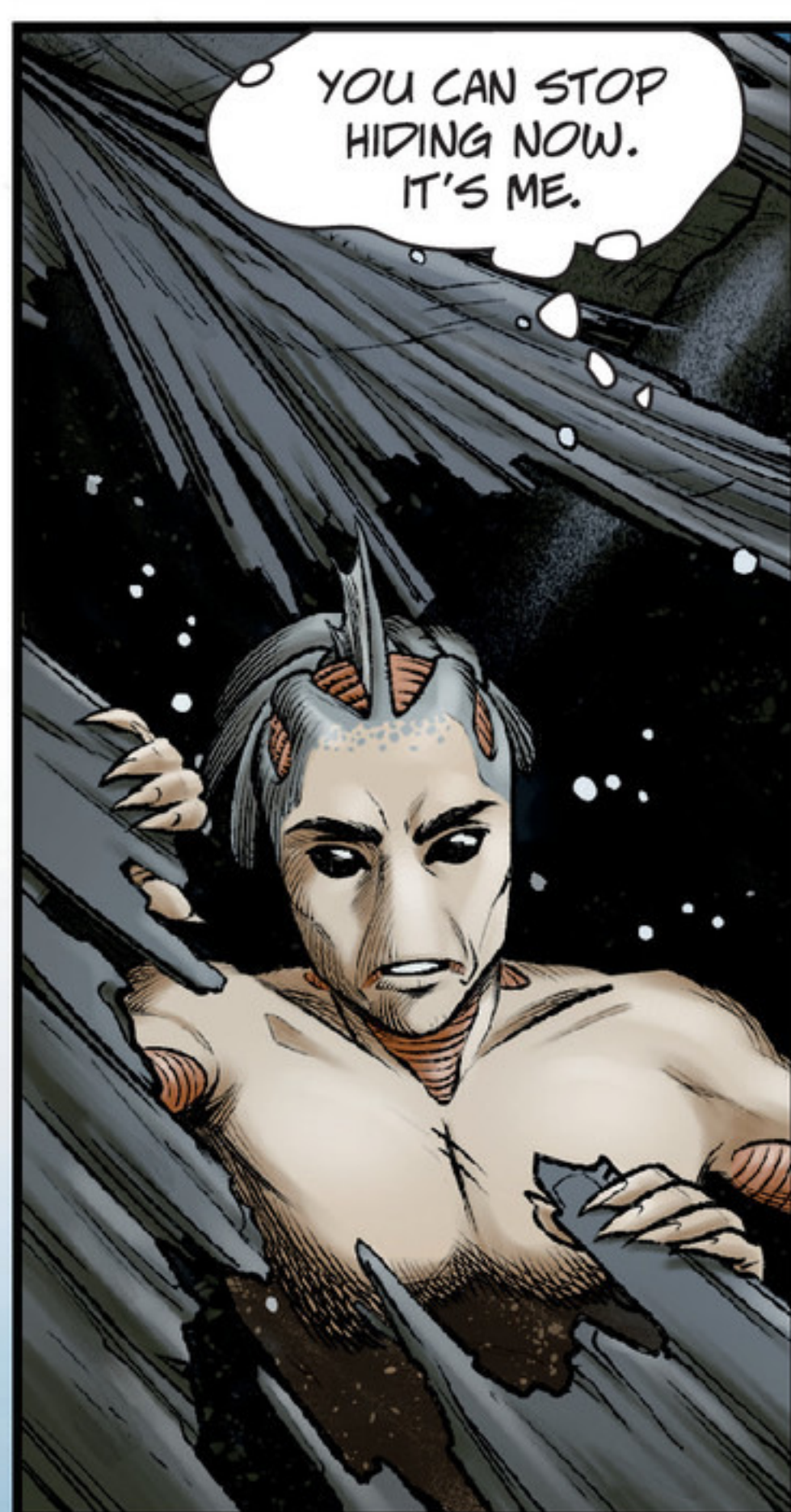
den
høres
kun som
orgeltoner...

...jeg
ved e
slot,

rileva
væg og
tag.

EVERYBODY
GET BACK!
RUN AWAY!

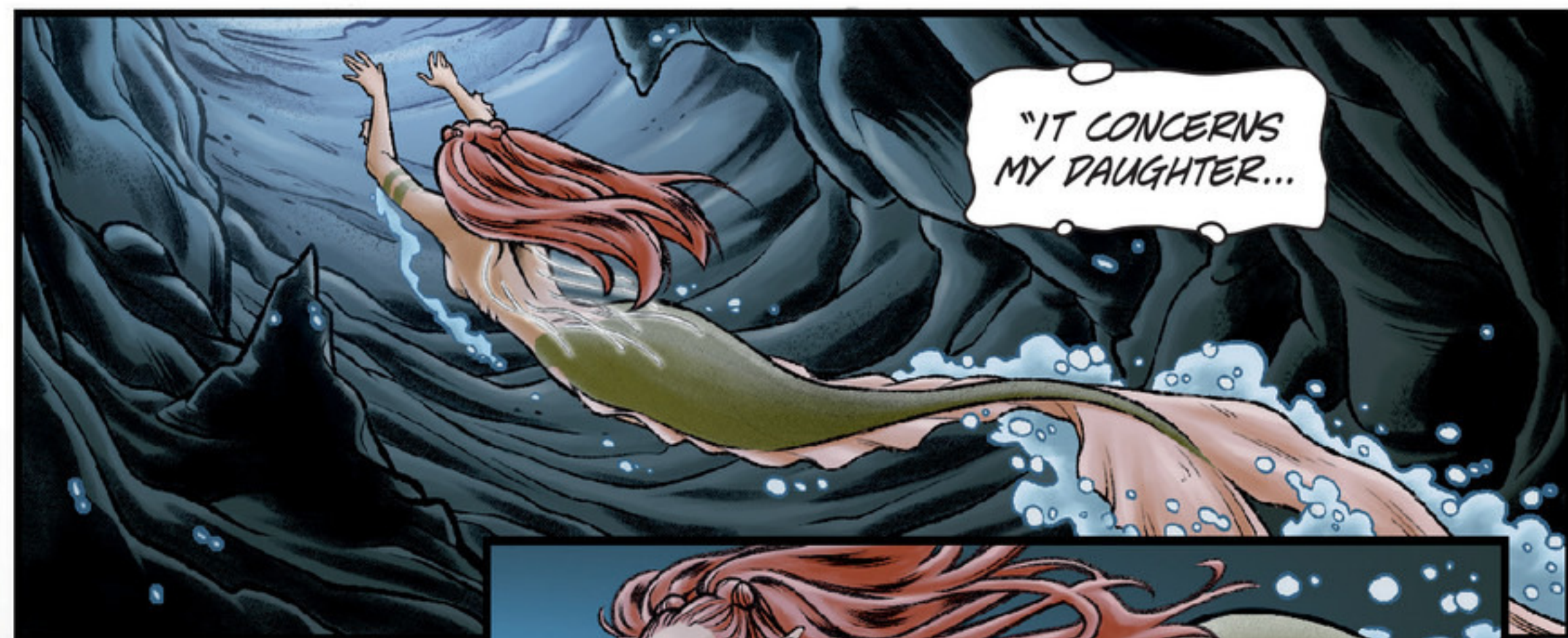




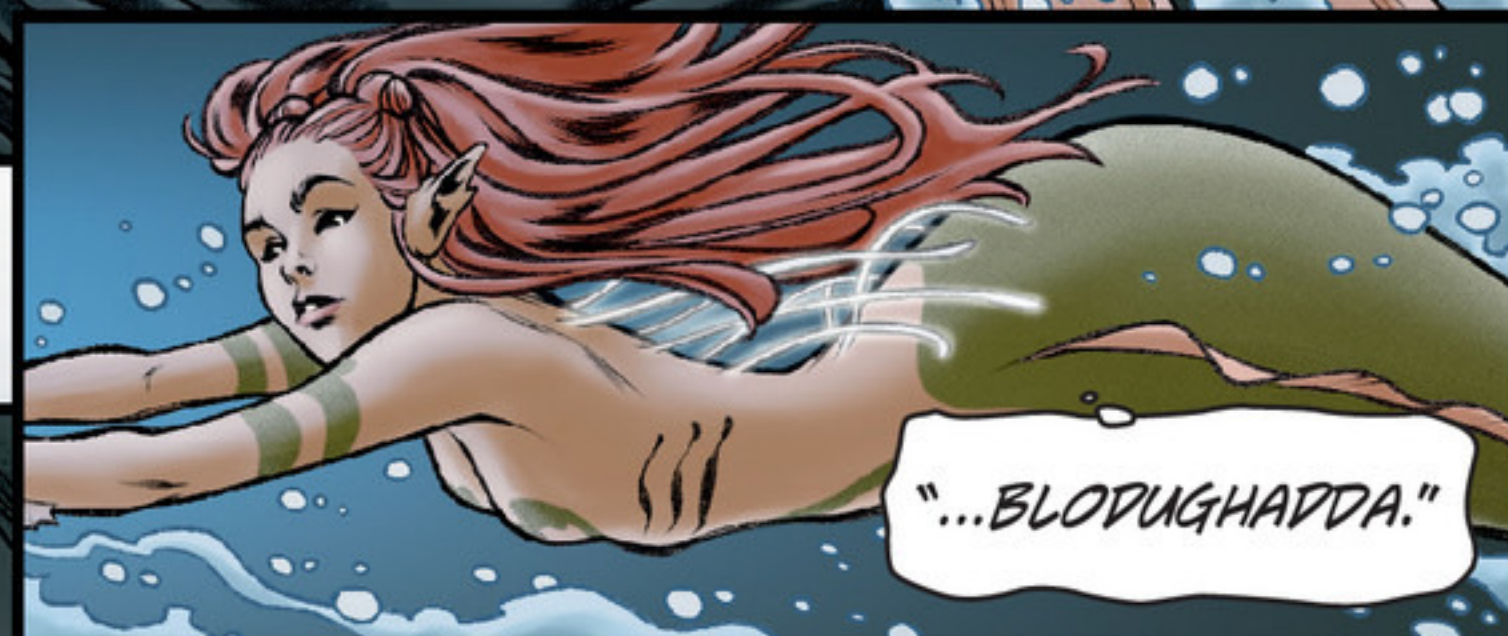


APPROACH, ELDIR,
FAITHFUL SERVANT.

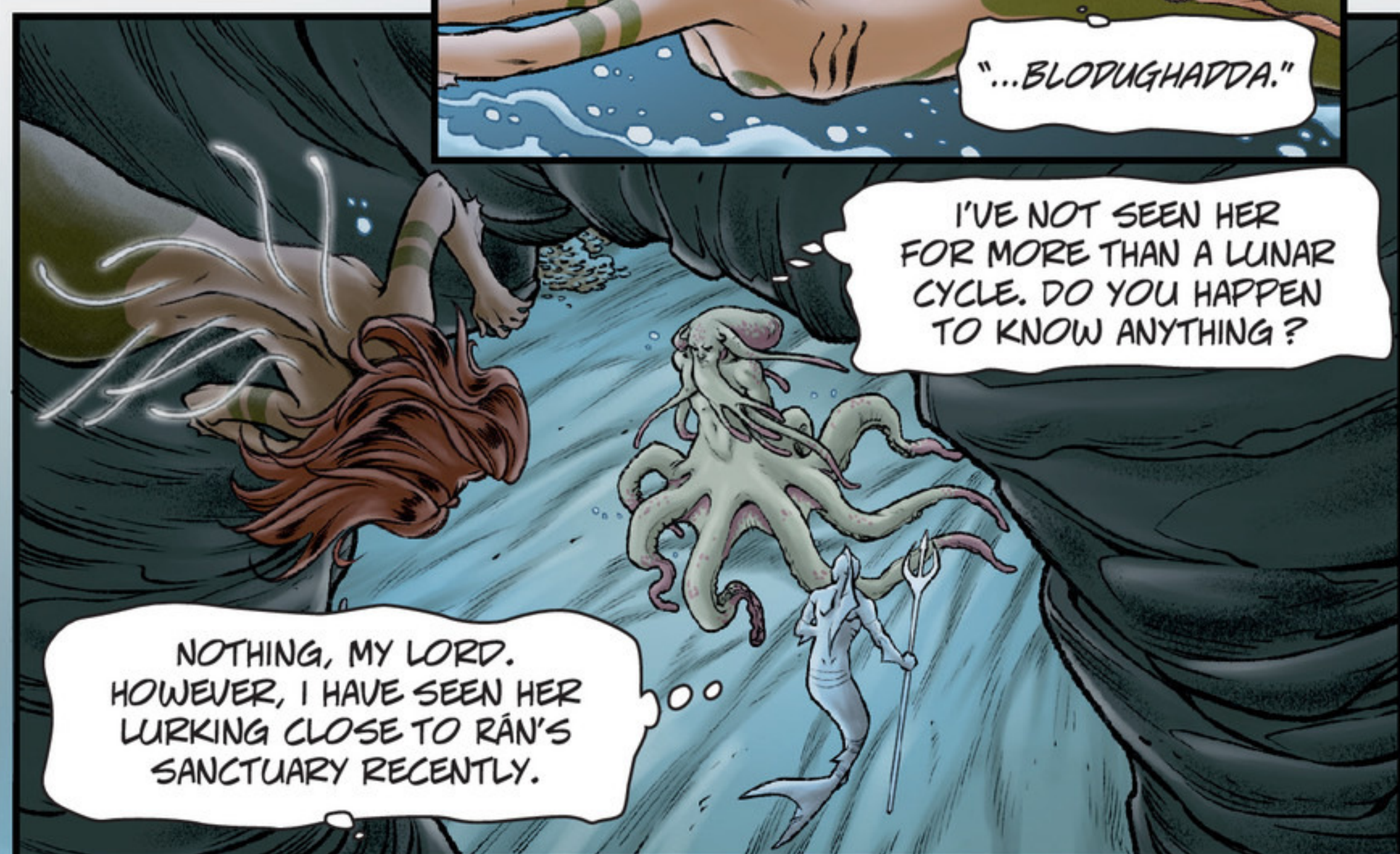
I SHALL BE FOREVER
LOYAL TO YOU, MY KING.



"IT CONCERNS
MY DAUGHTER..."



"...BLODUGHADDA."

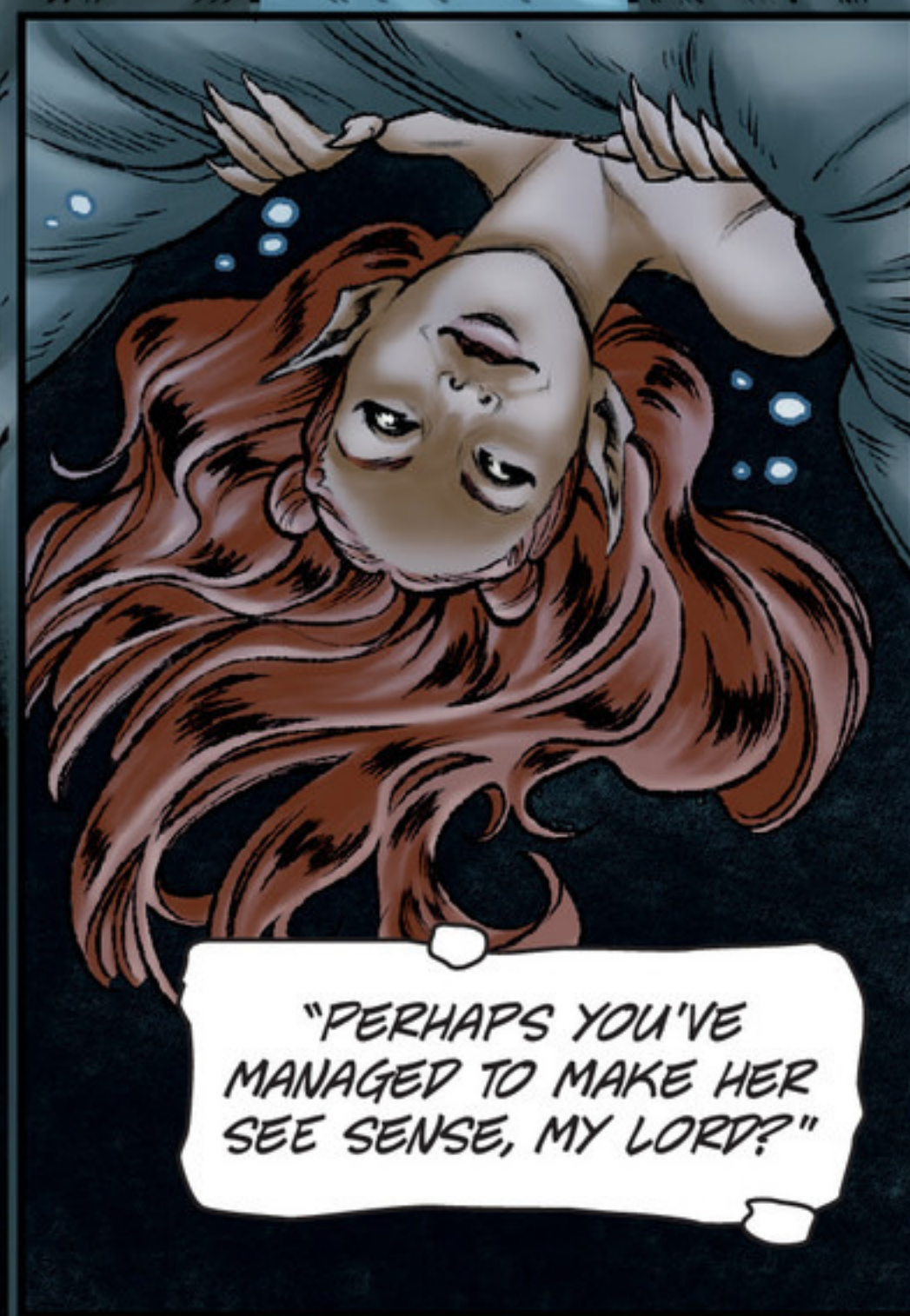


I'VE NOT SEEN HER
FOR MORE THAN A LUNAR
CYCLE. DO YOU HAPPEN
TO KNOW ANYTHING?

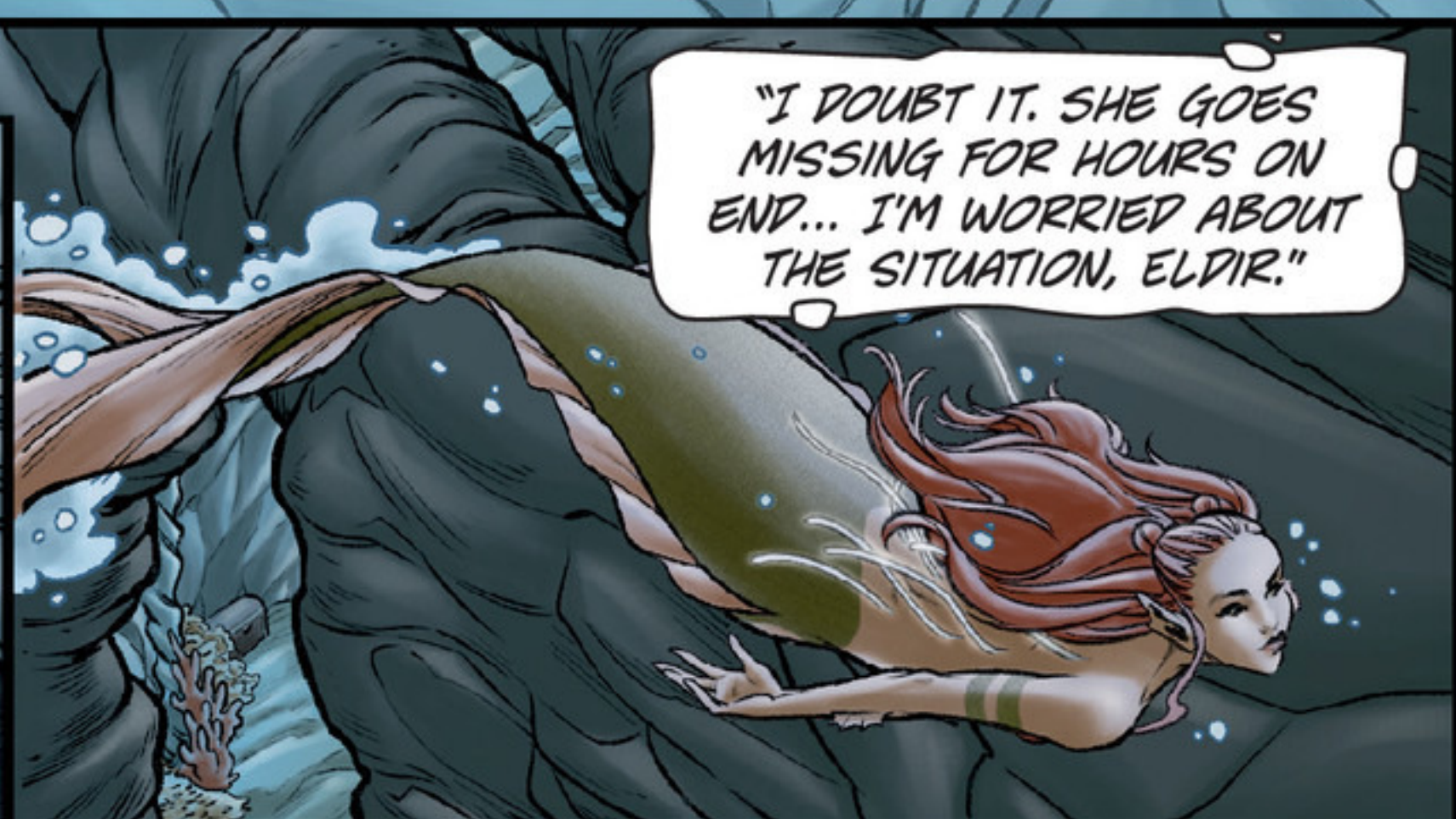
NOTHING, MY LORD.
HOWEVER, I HAVE SEEN HER
LURKING CLOSE TO RAN'S
SANCTUARY RECENTLY.



IT IS MOST UNUSUAL. EVEN
HER SISTERS REPORT A SUDDEN
CHANGE IN HER BEHAVIOR.



"PERHAPS YOU'VE
MANAGED TO MAKE HER
SEE SENSE, MY LORD?"



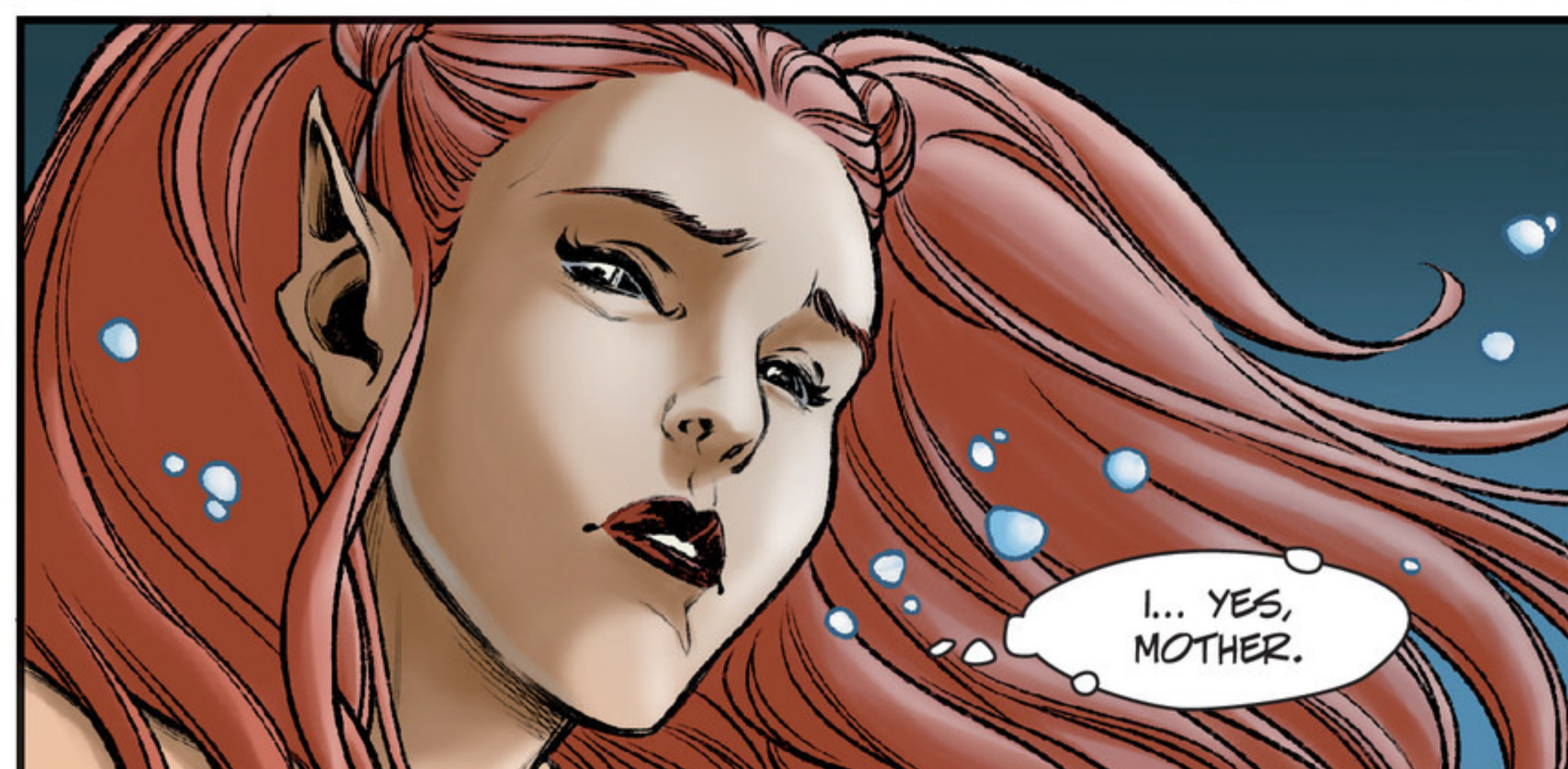
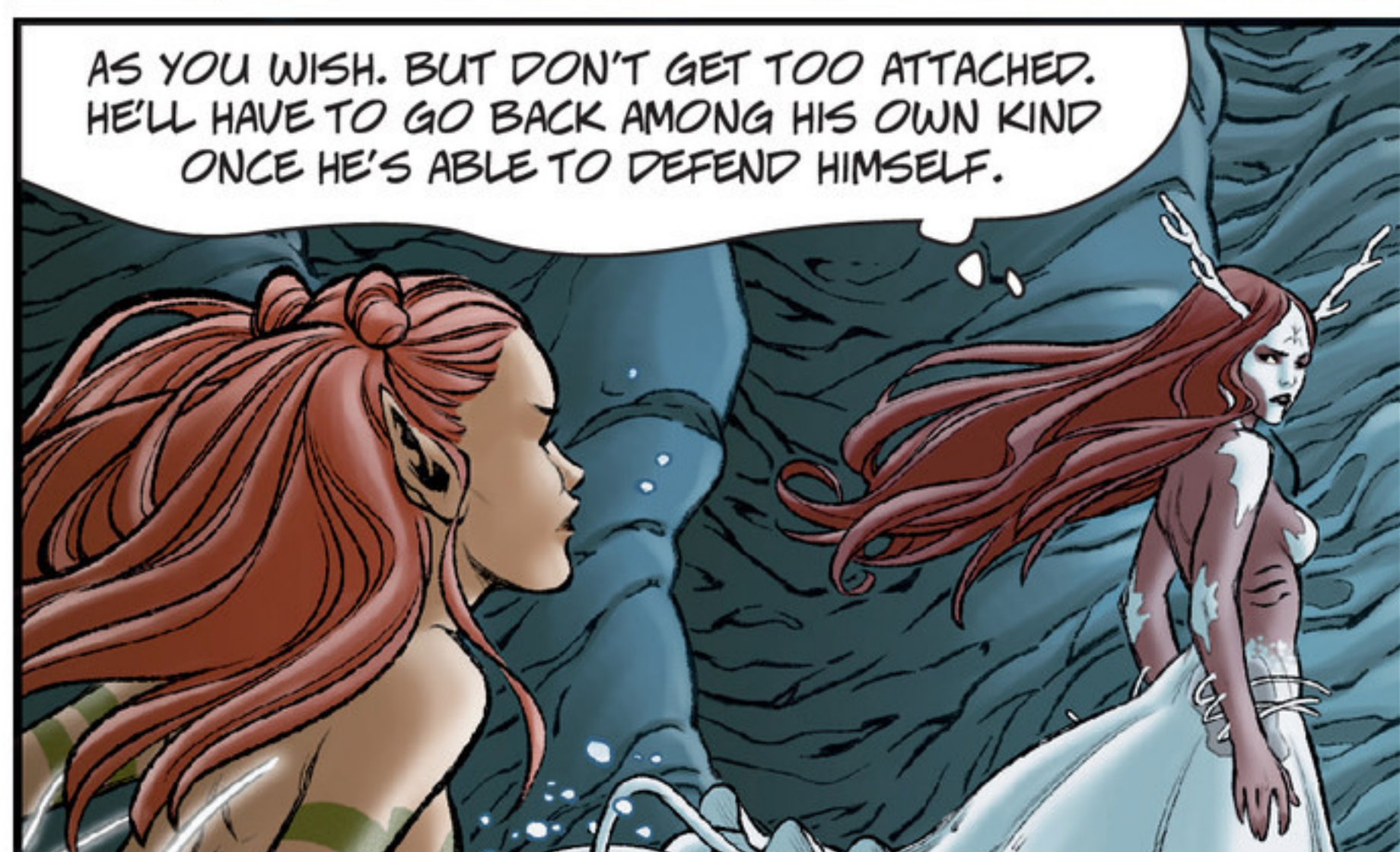
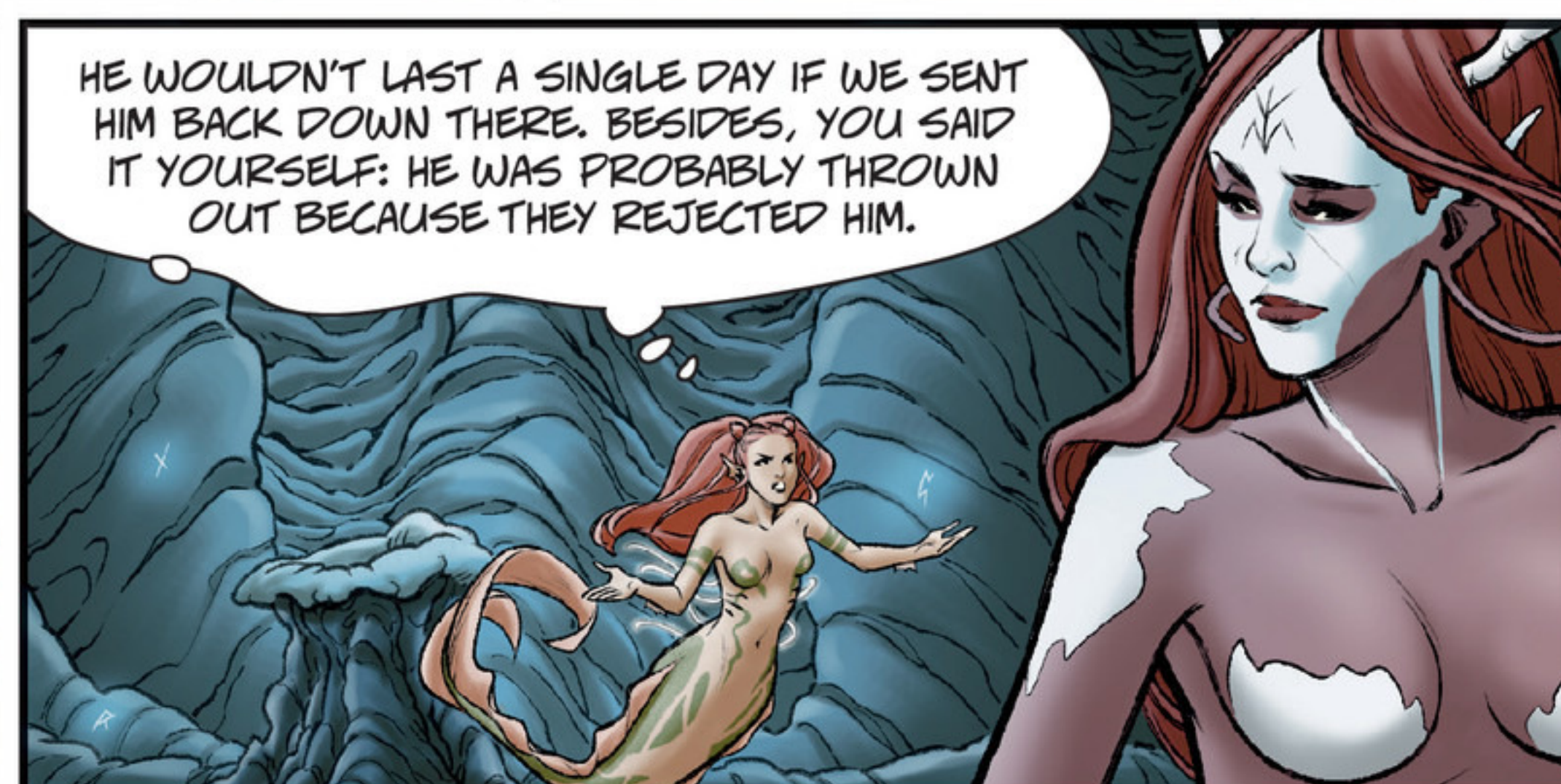
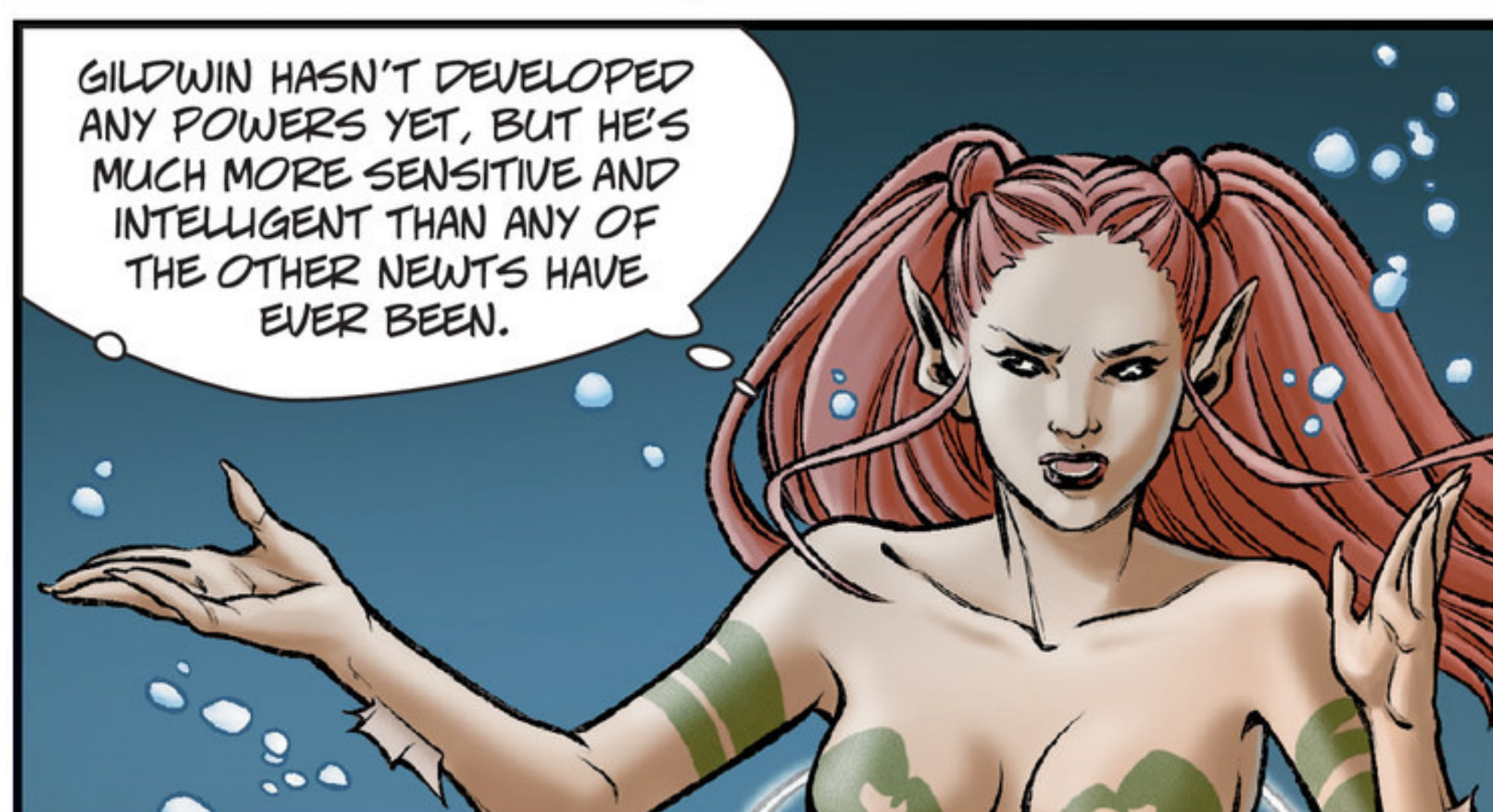
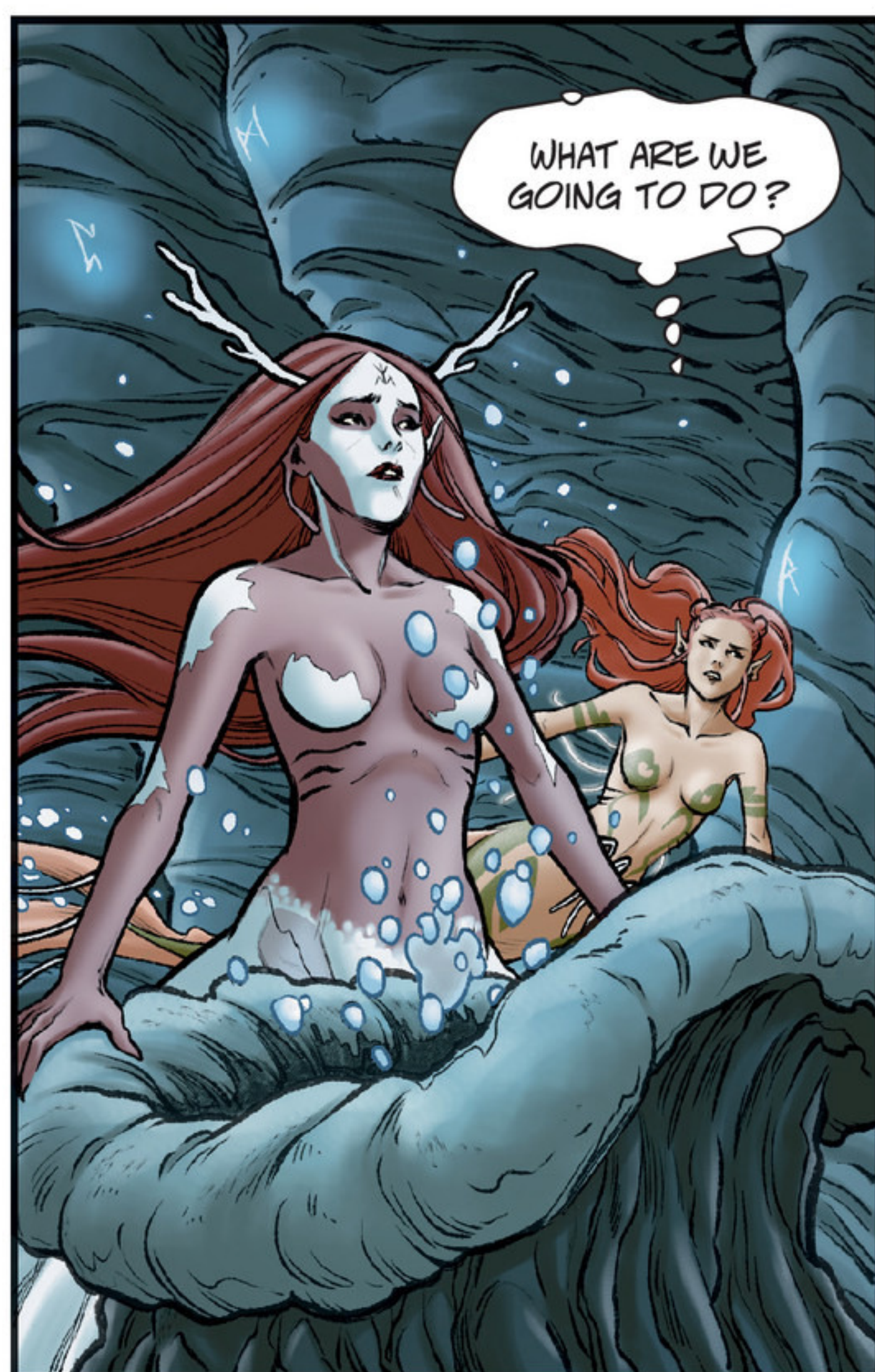
"I DOUBT IT. SHE GOES
MISSING FOR HOURS ON
END... I'M WORRIED ABOUT
THE SITUATION, ELDIR."

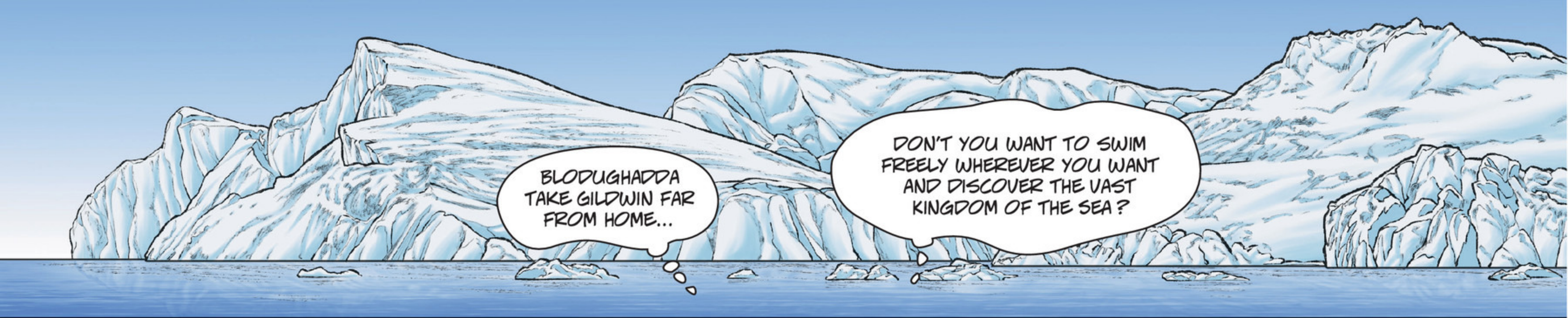
I'D LIKE YOU TO WATCH HER
CLOSELY. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT SHE
GETS UP TO OUTSIDE THE PALACE.



SHE, WHO PERPETUALLY
HARASSED THEM BEFORE,
SEEMS TO HAVE LOST
INTEREST IN HER USUAL
TOMFOOLERY.

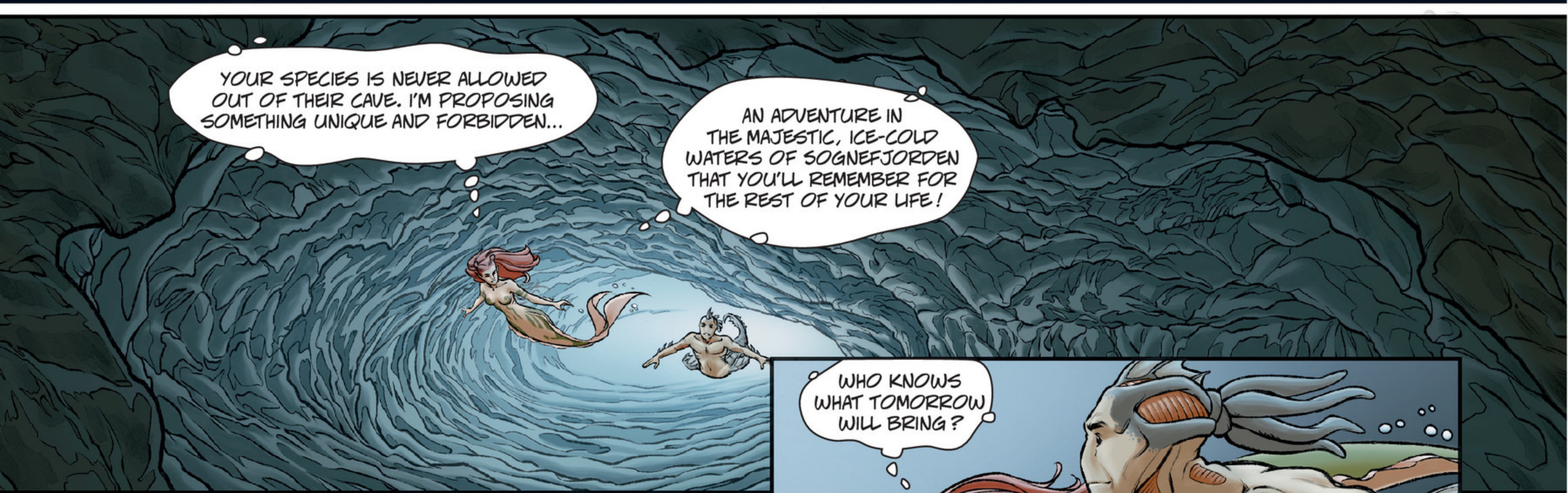
YOUR WISH IS MY
COMMAND, MASTER.





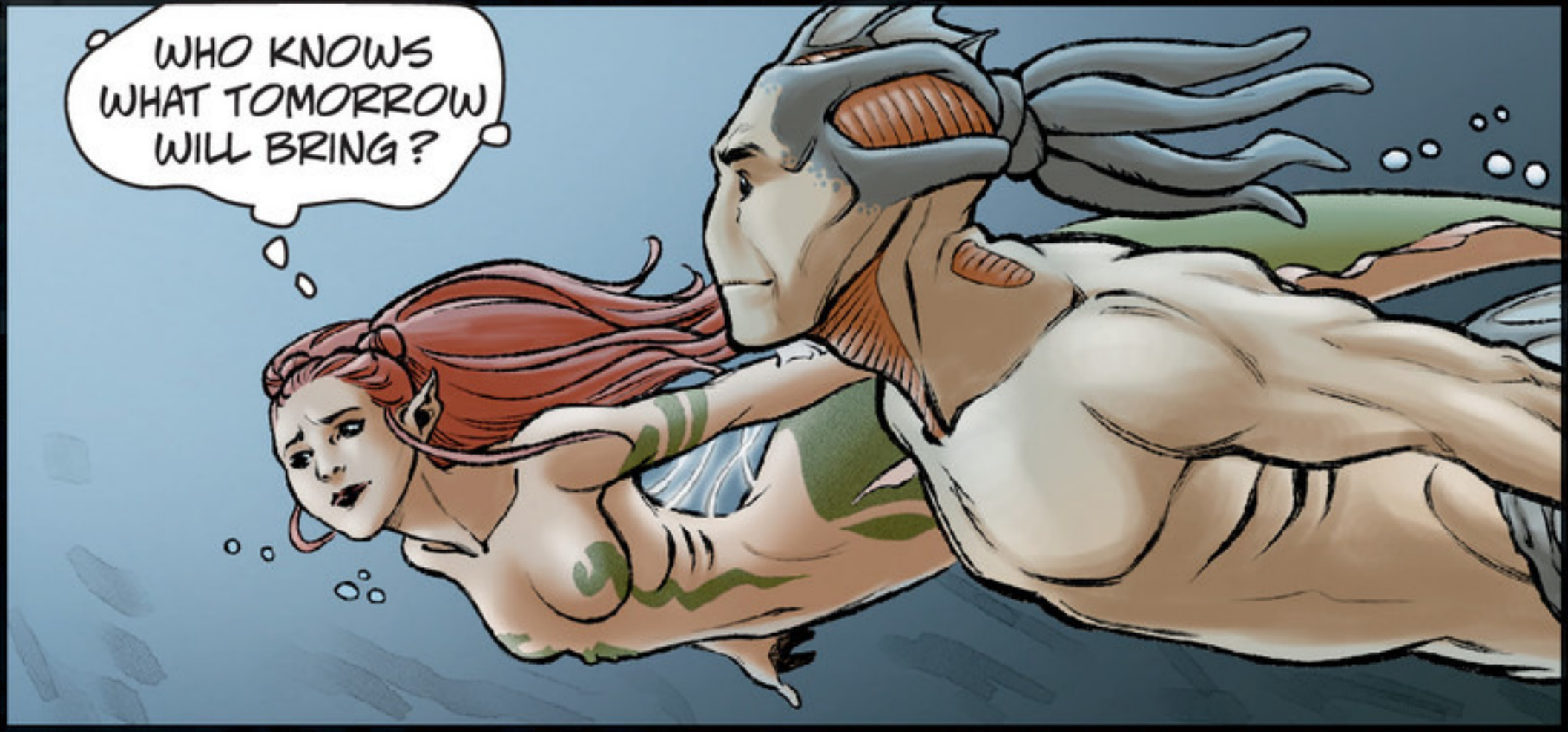
BLODUGHADDA
TAKE GILDWIN FAR
FROM HOME...

DON'T YOU WANT TO SWIM
FREELY WHEREVER YOU WANT
AND DISCOVER THE VAST
KINGDOM OF THE SEA?

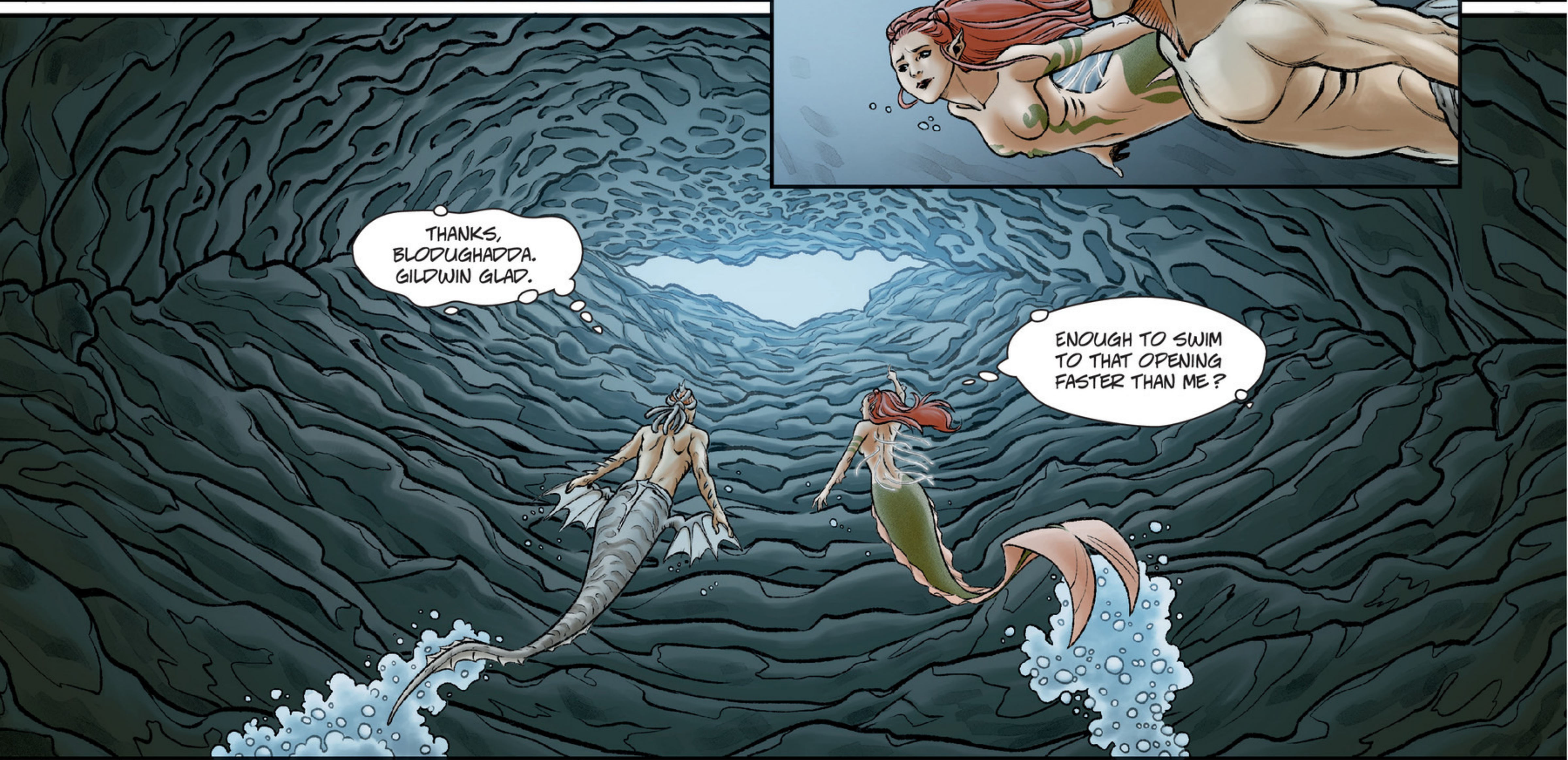


YOUR SPECIES IS NEVER ALLOWED
OUT OF THEIR CAVE. I'M PROPOSING
SOMETHING UNIQUE AND FORBIDDEN...

AN ADVENTURE IN
THE MAJESTIC, ICE-COLD
WATERS OF SOGNEFJORDEN
THAT YOU'LL REMEMBER FOR
THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!

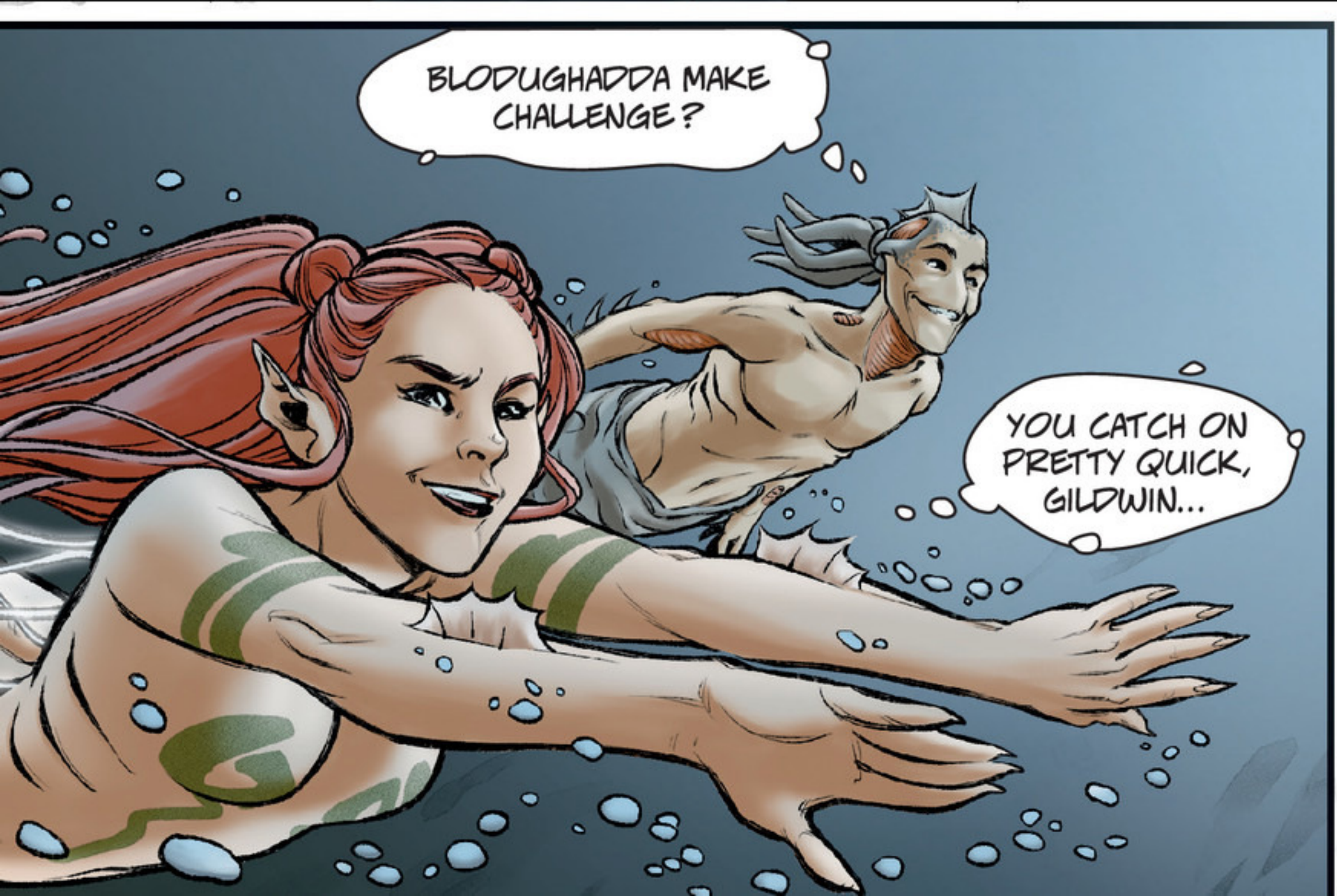


WHO KNOWS
WHAT TOMORROW
WILL BRING?



THANKS,
BLODUGHADDA.
GILDWIN GLAD.

ENOUGH TO SWIM
TO THAT OPENING
FASTER THAN ME?



BLODUGHADDA MAKE
CHALLENGE?

YOU CATCH ON
PRETTY QUICK,
GILDWIN...

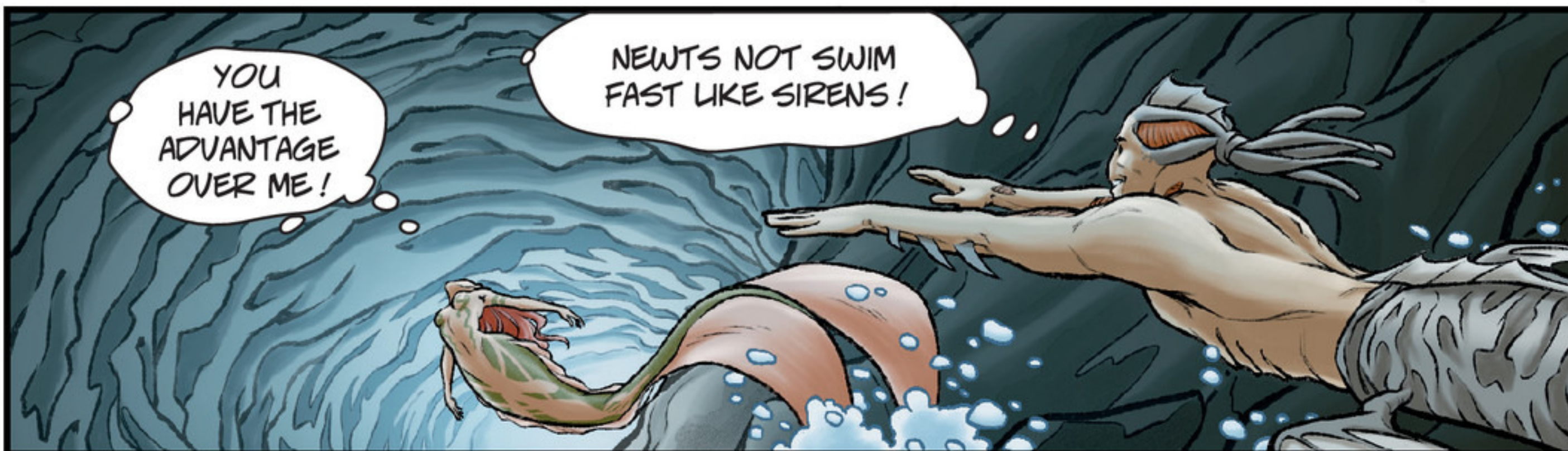


BUT YOU TALK
TOO MUCH!



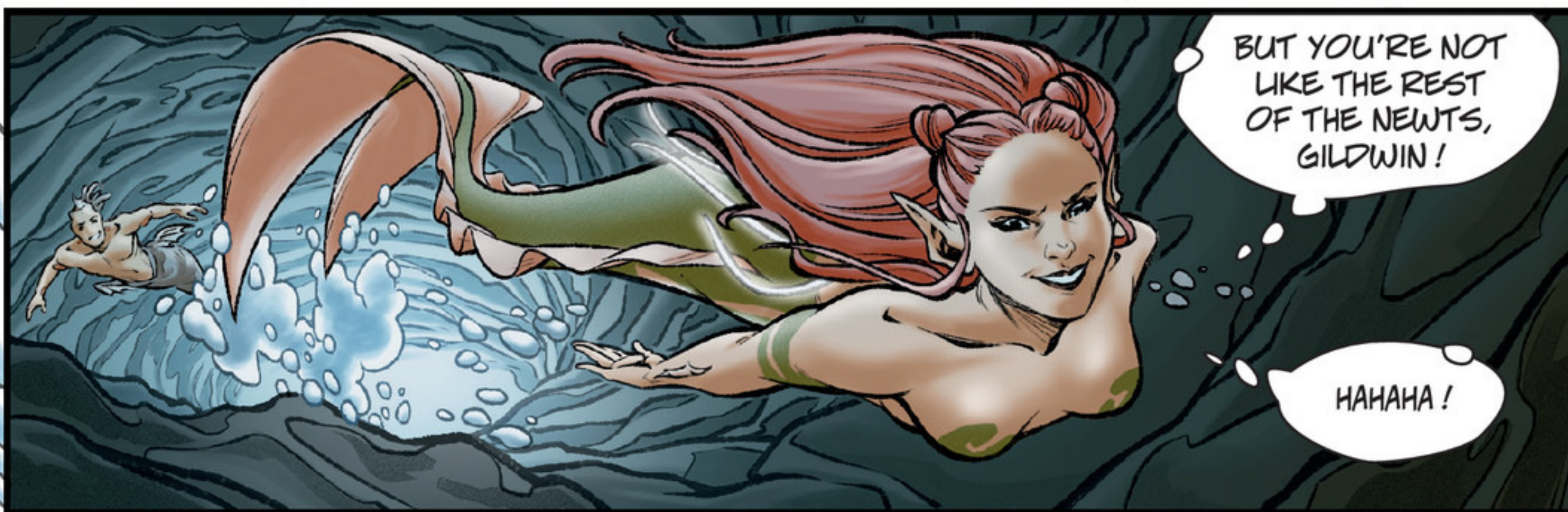
BLODUGHADDA CHEATING!

YOU SHOULDN'T BE COMPLAINING! NEWTS ARE USED TO SWIMMING IN FREEZING WATERS.



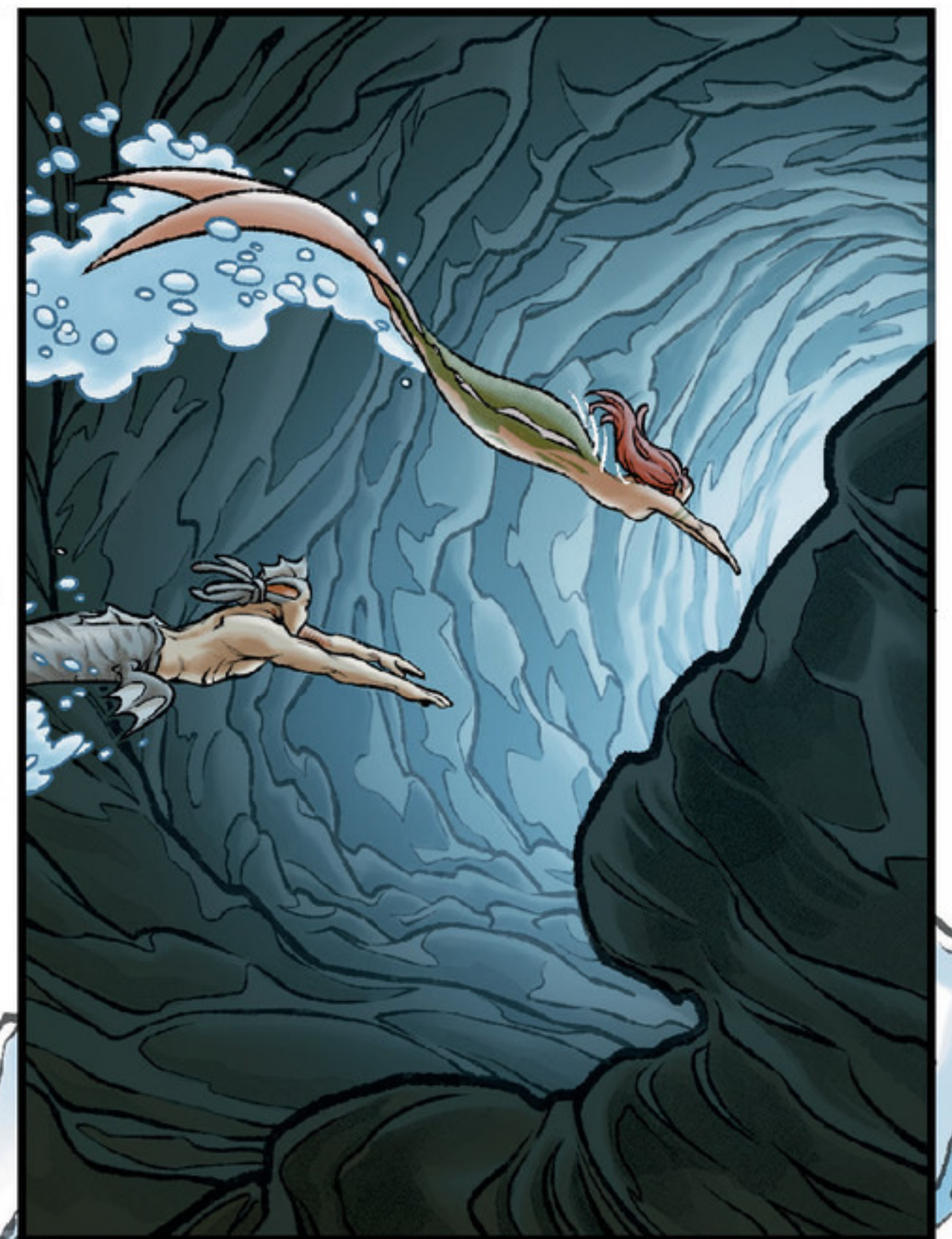
YOU HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OVER ME!

NEWT'S NOT SWIM FAST LIKE SIRENS!

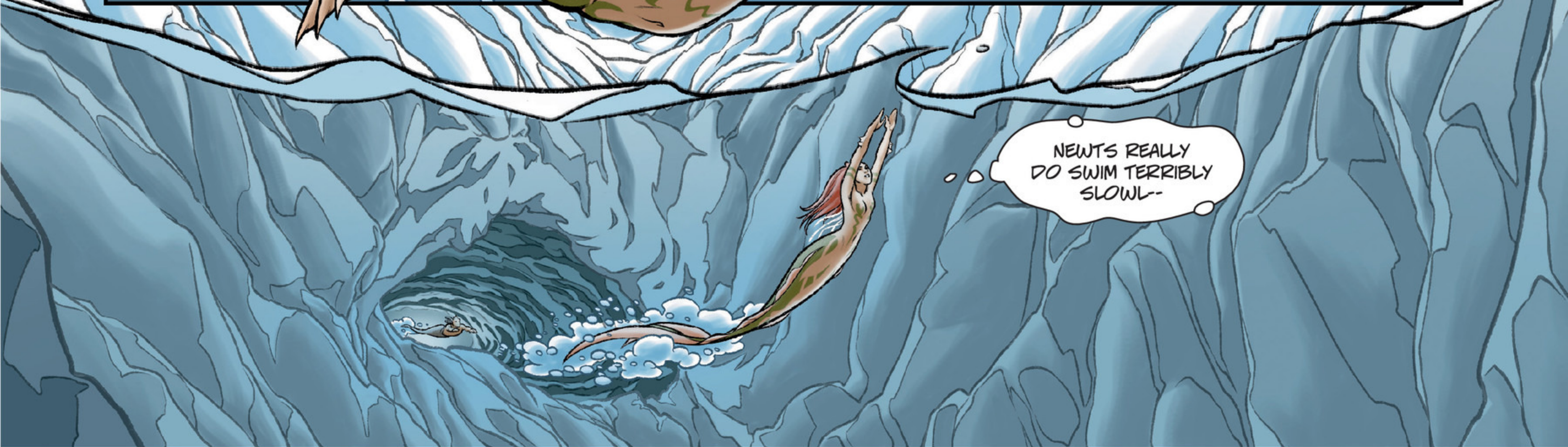


BUT YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE REST OF THE NEWTS, GILDWIN!

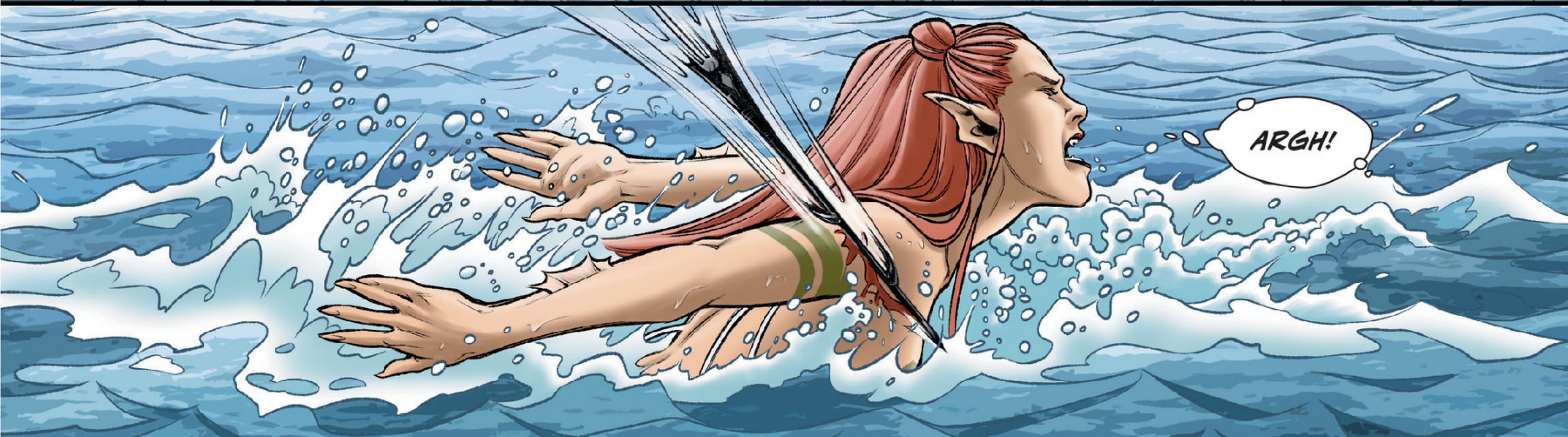
HAHAHA!



YOU WERE RIGHT...



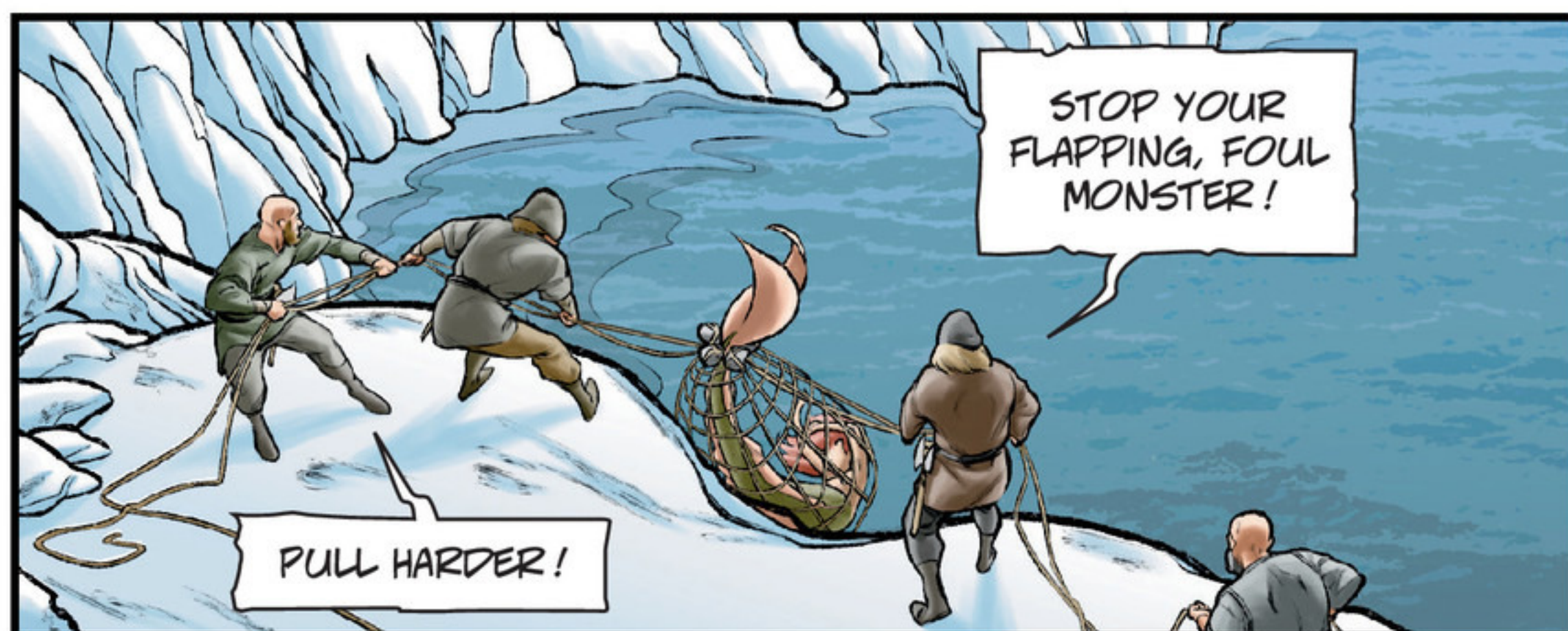
NEWT'S REALLY DO SWIM TERRIBLY SLOW--



ARGH!



WE GOT HER!



STOP YOUR
FLAPPING, FOUL
MONSTER!

PULL HARDER!

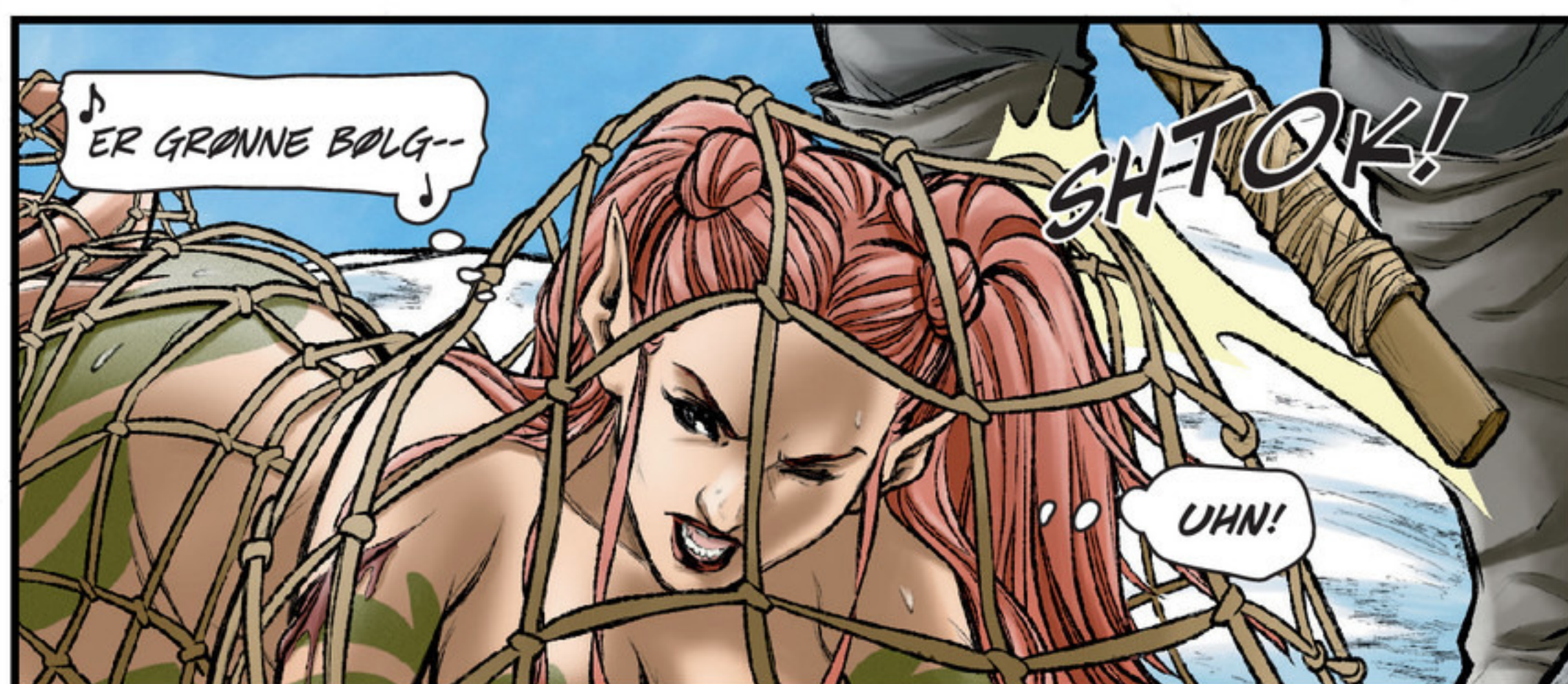


BY ODIN, SHE'S
STRUGGLING
LIKE A DEMON!



♪ JEG VED ET SLOT,
DETS VAEG OG TAG...
♪

HIT HER!



♪ ER GRØNNE BØLG--

SHIT OK!

UHN!



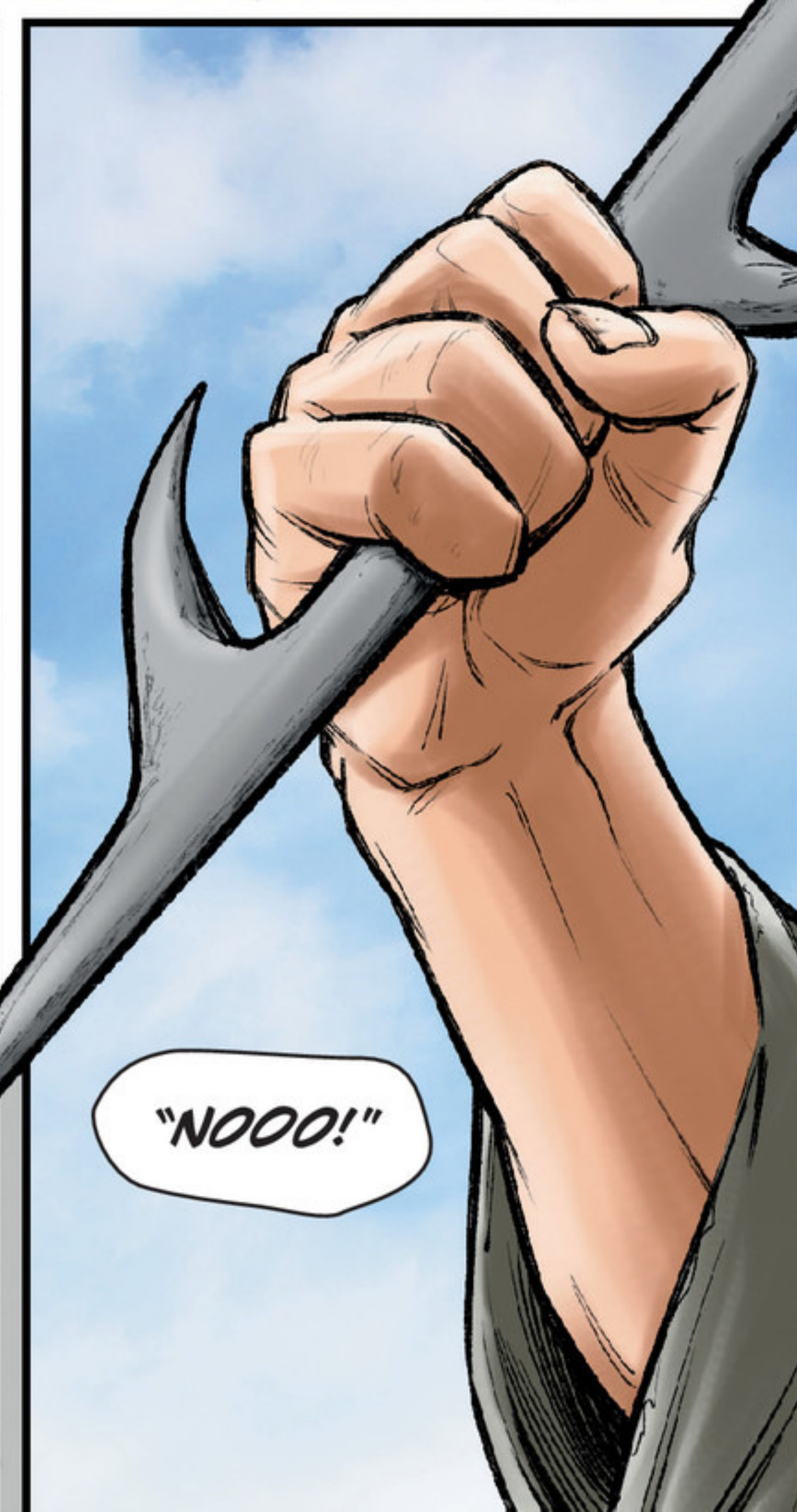
DAMNED SHE-DEVIL!

THESE CRITTERS
ARE TOUGH!

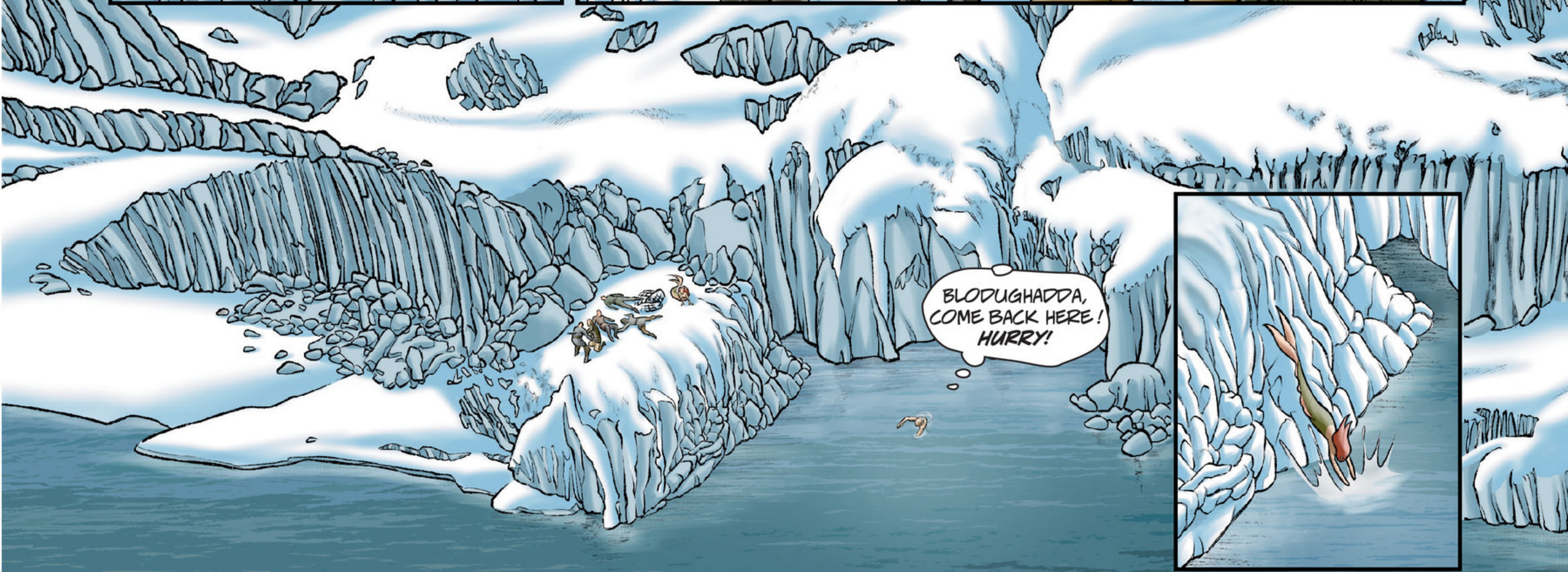
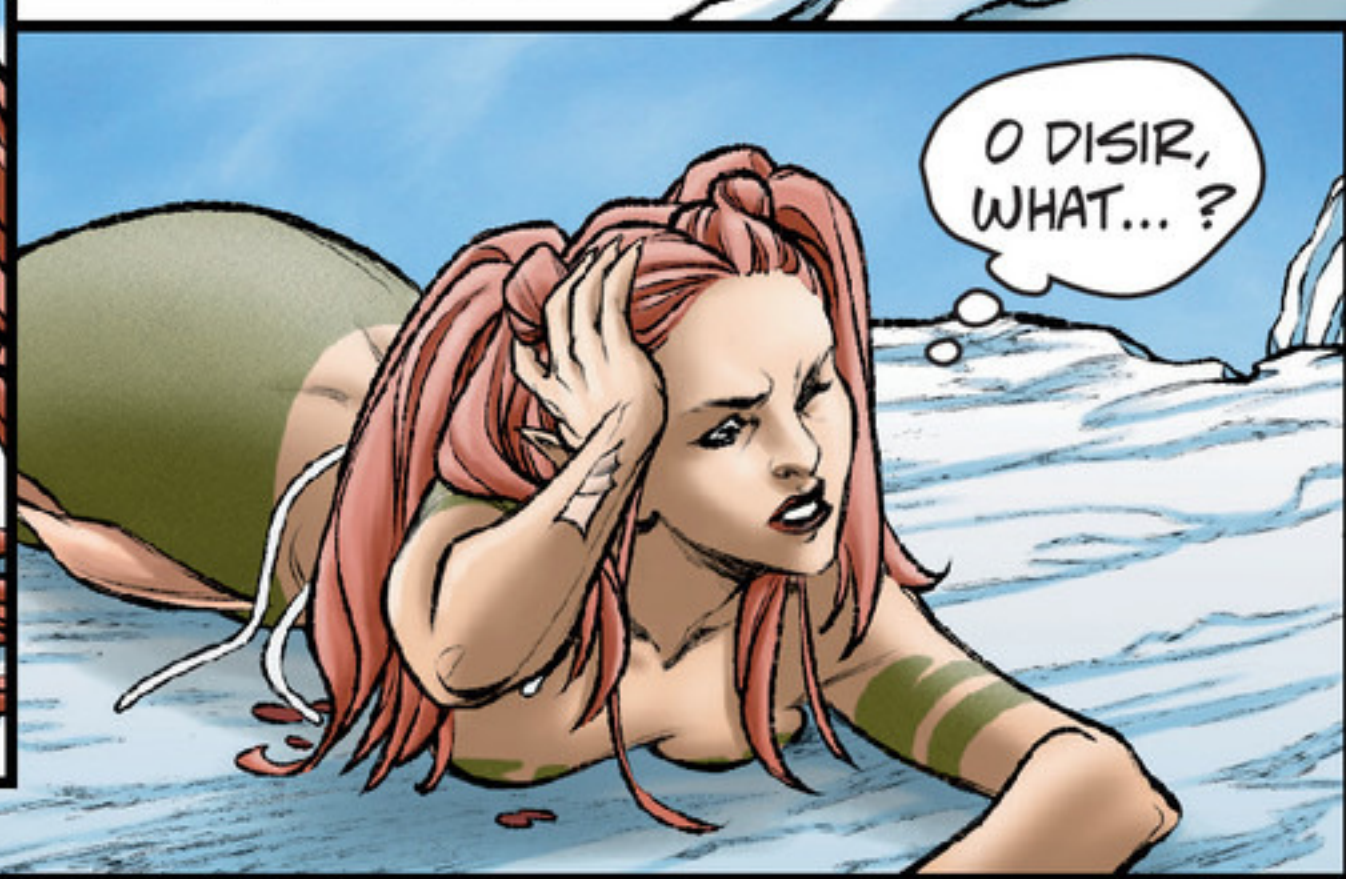
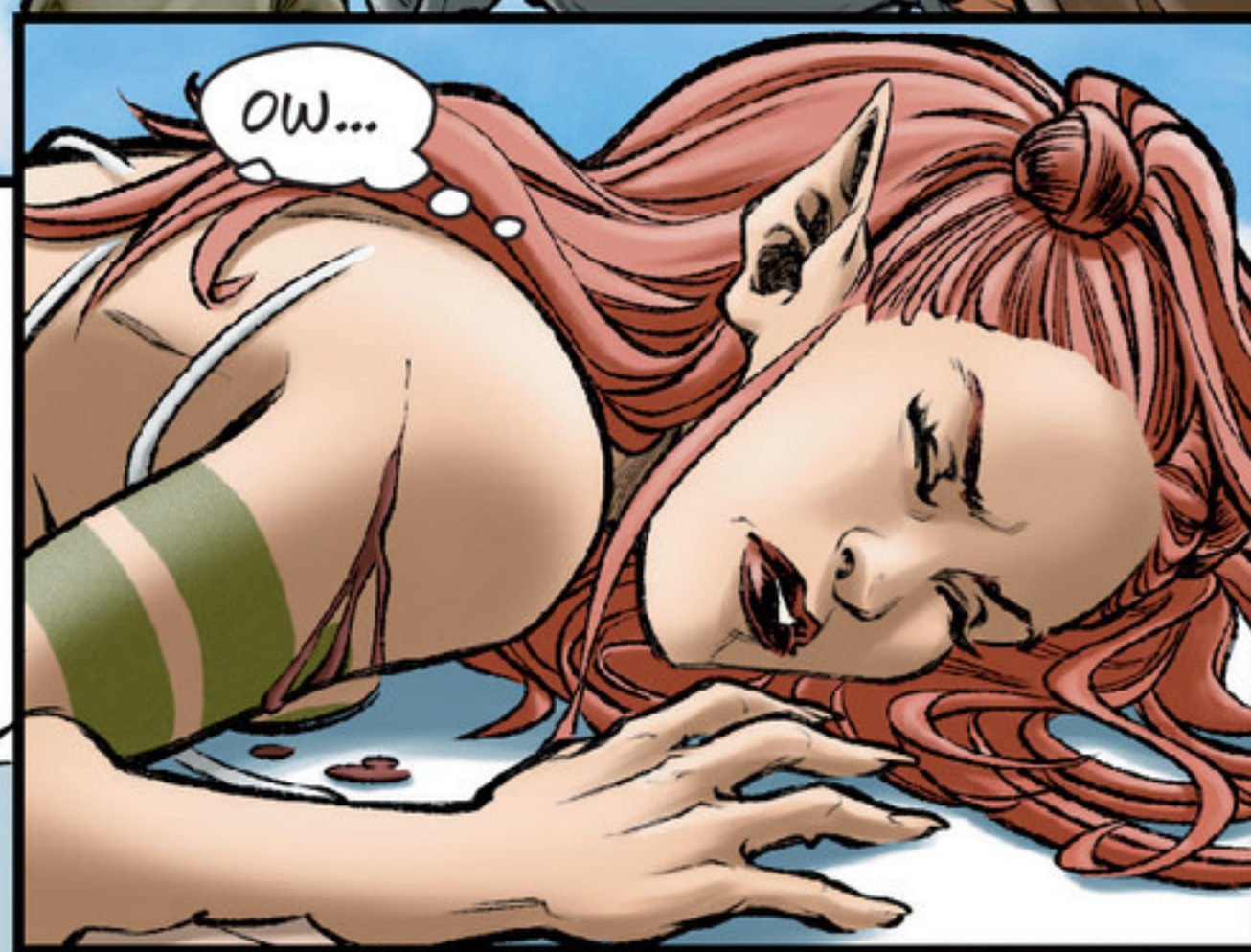
LET'S FINISH HER
OFF QUICK. I'M NOT
TAKING ANY CHANCES.



B-BLODUGHADDA...



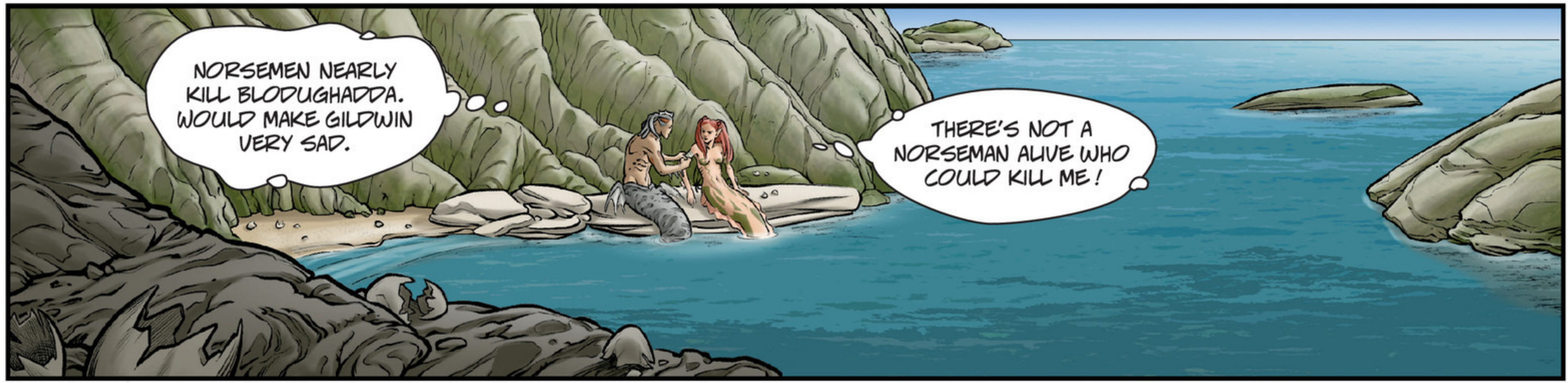
"NOOO!"





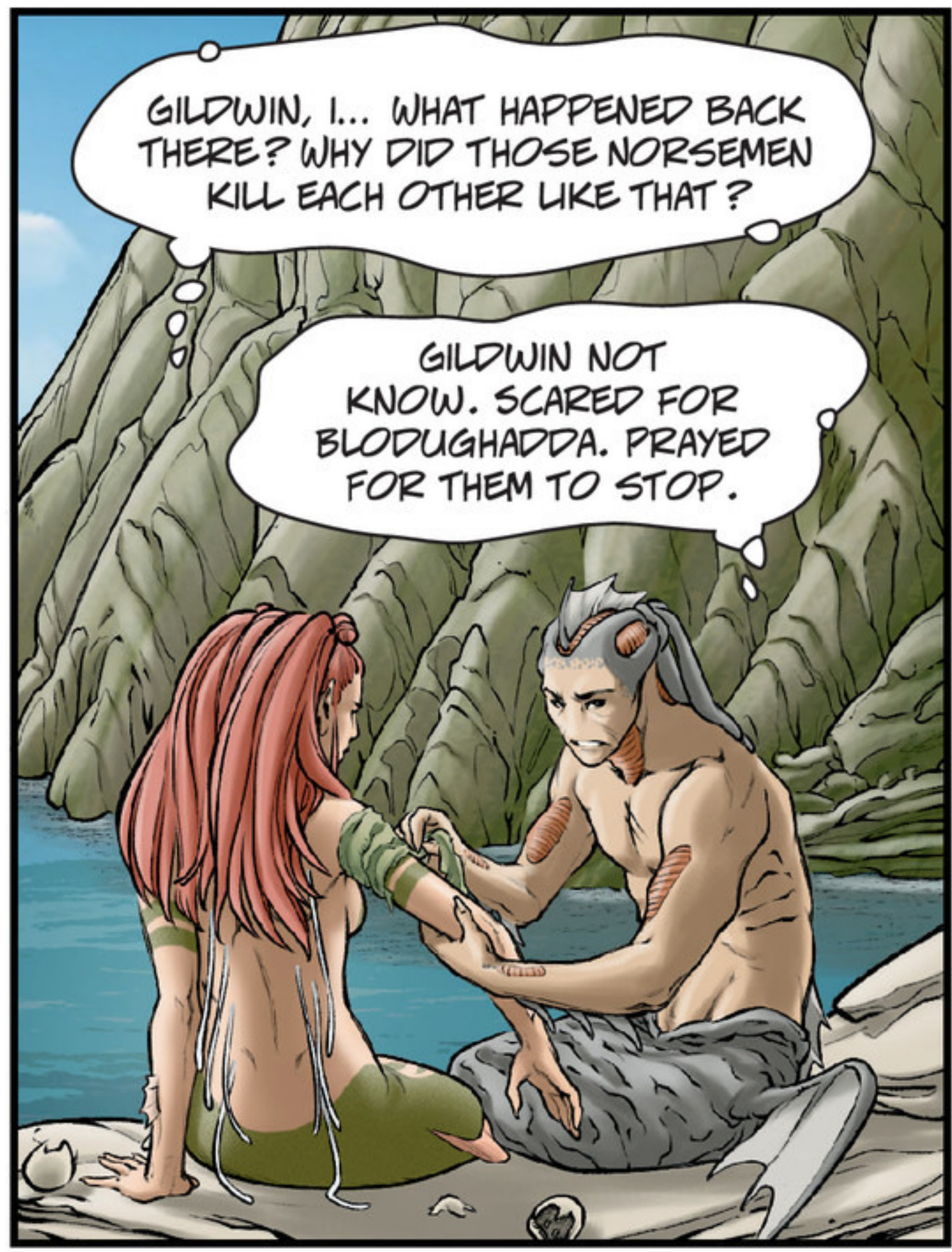
"BLODUGHADDA NOW IN SAFE PLACE. GILDWIN FIX ARM WOUND. MAKE SEAWEEED POULTICE..."

"IT'S ONLY A SCRATCH."



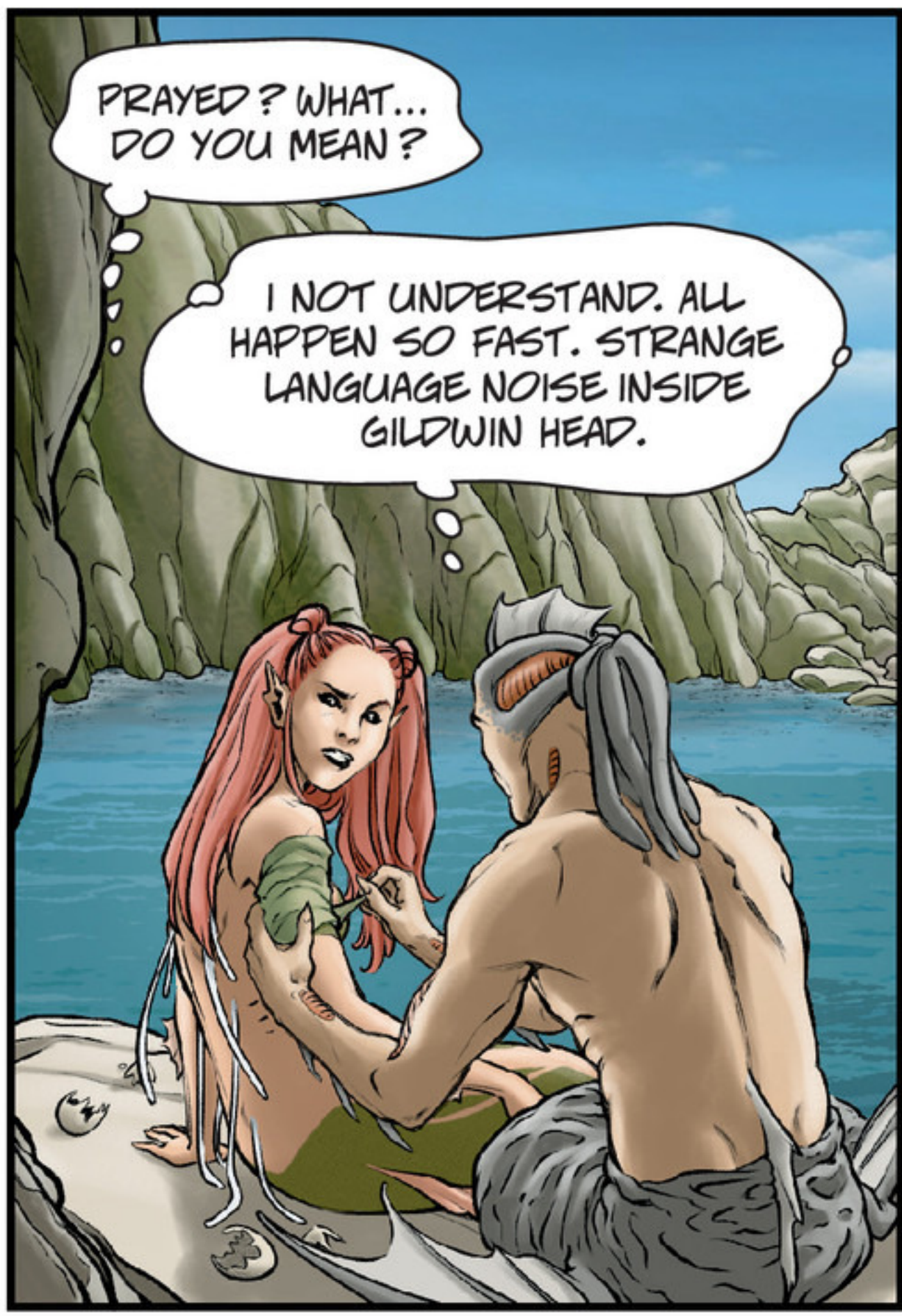
NORSEMEN NEARLY KILL BLODUGHADDA. WOULD MAKE GILDWIN VERY SAD.

THERE'S NOT A NORSEMAN ALIVE WHO COULD KILL ME!



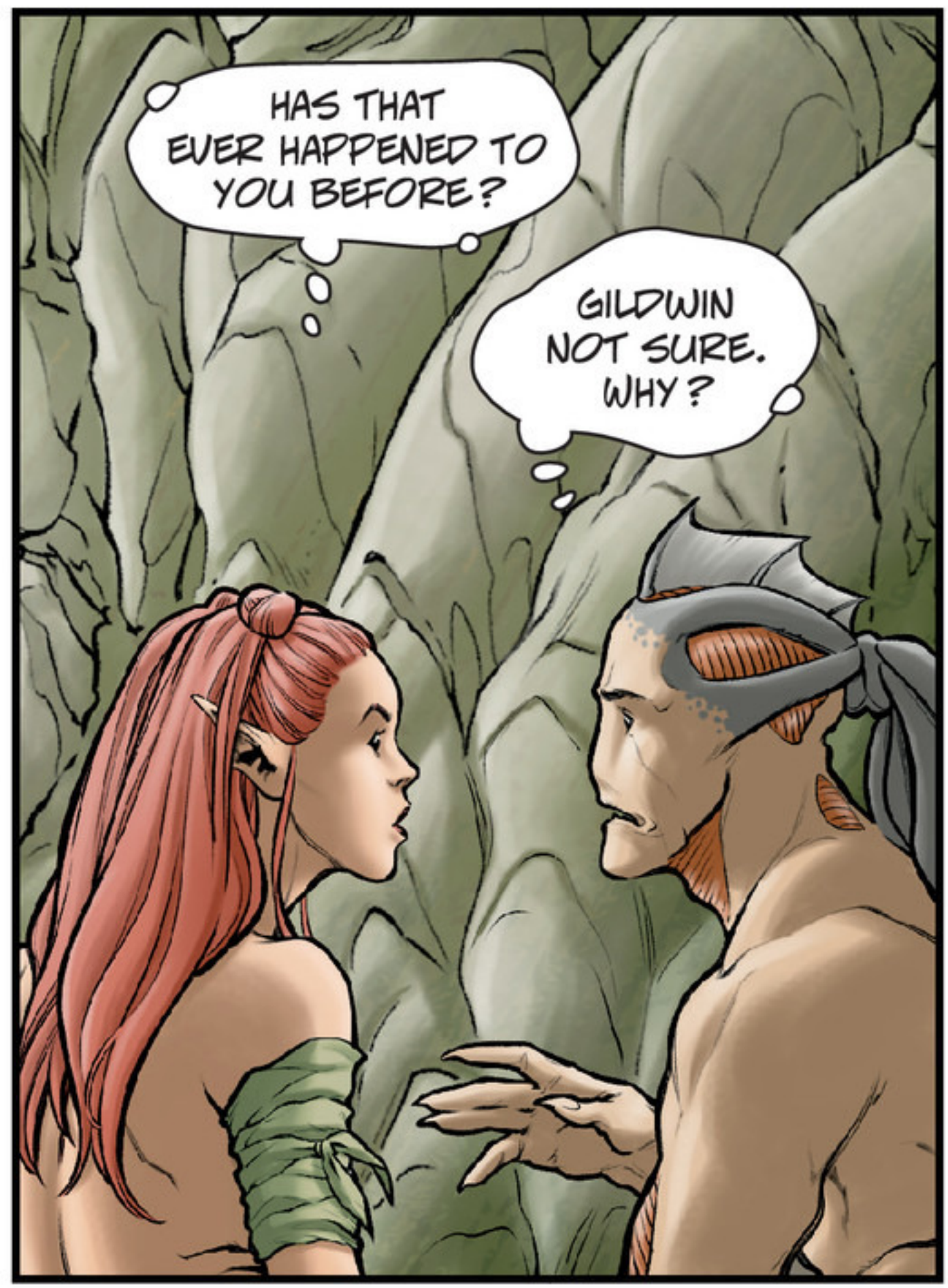
GILDWIN, I... WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE? WHY DID THOSE NORSEMEN KILL EACH OTHER LIKE THAT?

GILDWIN NOT KNOW. SCARED FOR BLODUGHADDA. PRAYED FOR THEM TO STOP.



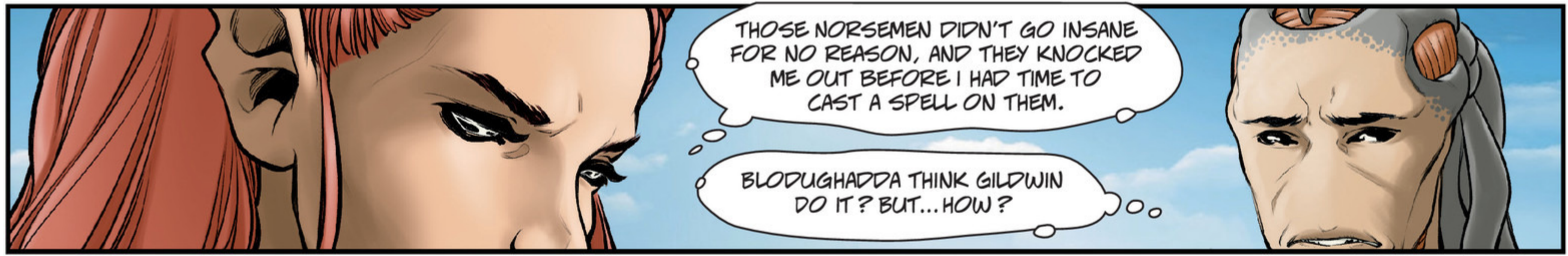
PRAYED? WHAT... DO YOU MEAN?

I NOT UNDERSTAND. ALL HAPPEN SO FAST. STRANGE LANGUAGE NOISE INSIDE GILDWIN HEAD.



HAS THAT EVER HAPPENED TO YOU BEFORE?

GILDWIN NOT SURE. WHY?



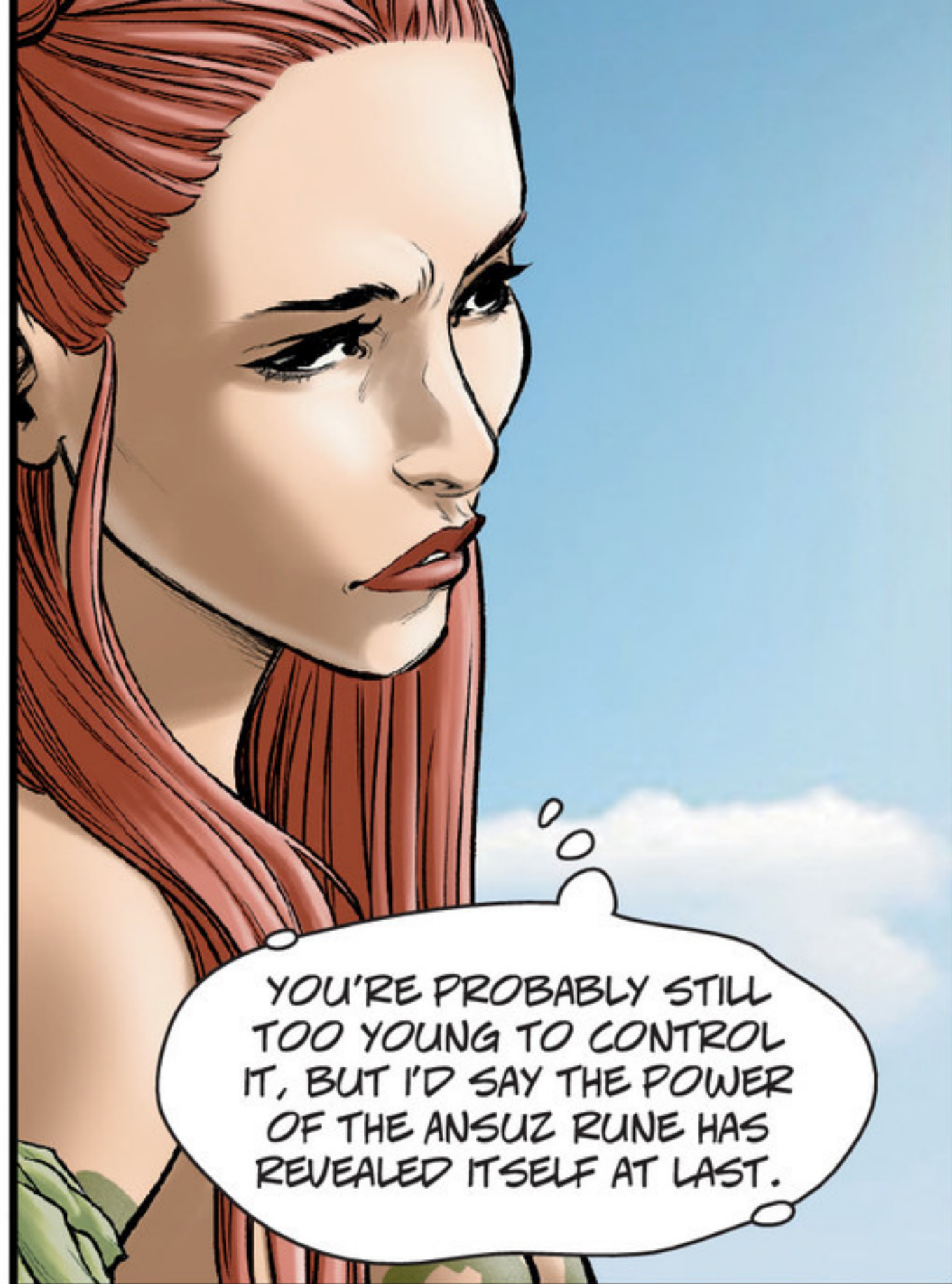
THOSE NORSEMEN DIDN'T GO INSANE FOR NO REASON, AND THEY KNOCKED ME OUT BEFORE I HAD TIME TO CAST A SPELL ON THEM.

BLODUGHADDA THINK GILDWIN DO IT? BUT...HOW?



ALL I KNOW IS THAT SOMEONE, OR SOMETHING, DROVE THEM MAD.

IT COULD BE THAT YOUR GIFT IS EMERGING INSTINCTIVELY.

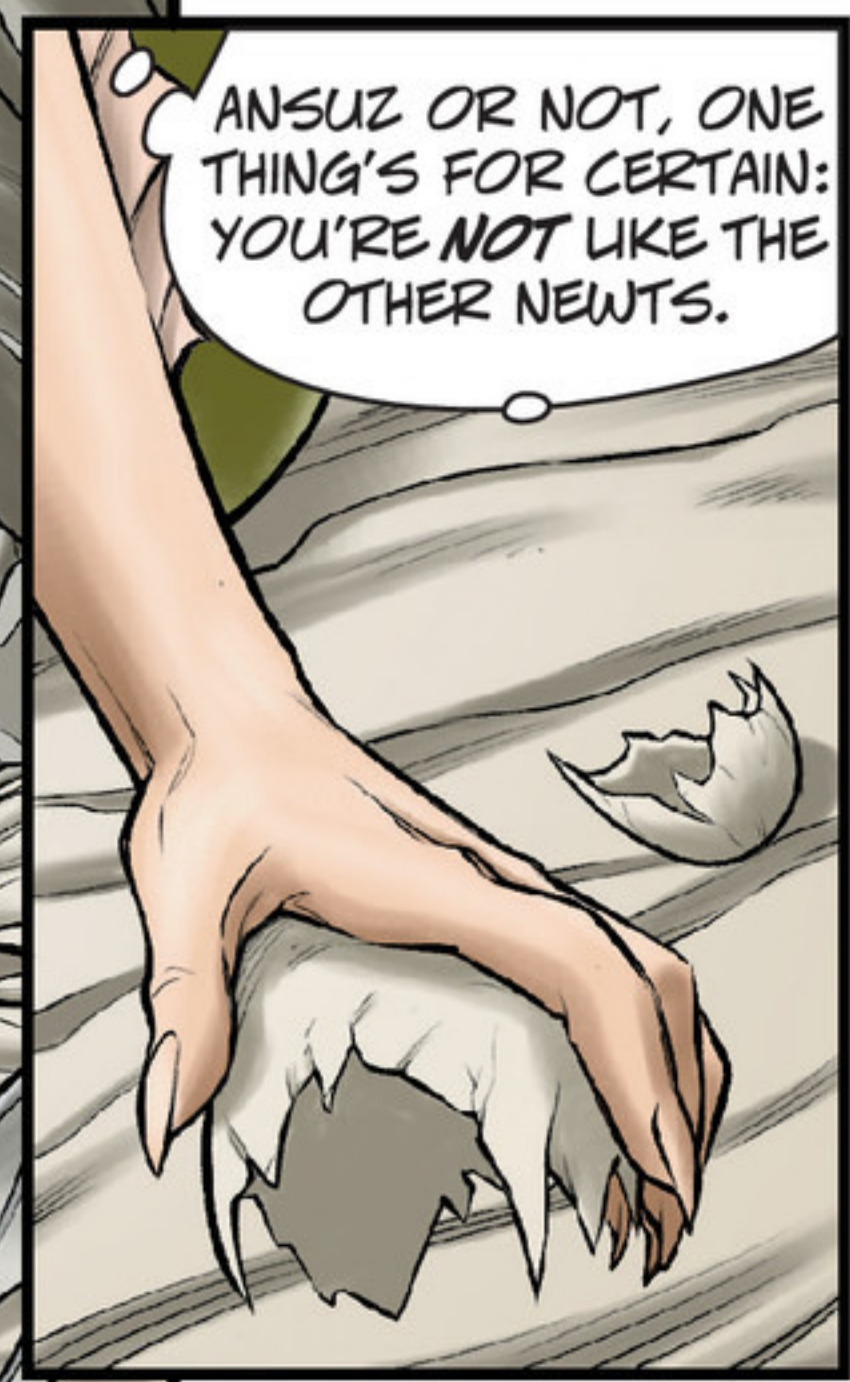


YOU'RE PROBABLY STILL TOO YOUNG TO CONTROL IT, BUT I'D SAY THE POWER OF THE ANSUZ RUNE HAS REVEALED ITSELF AT LAST.

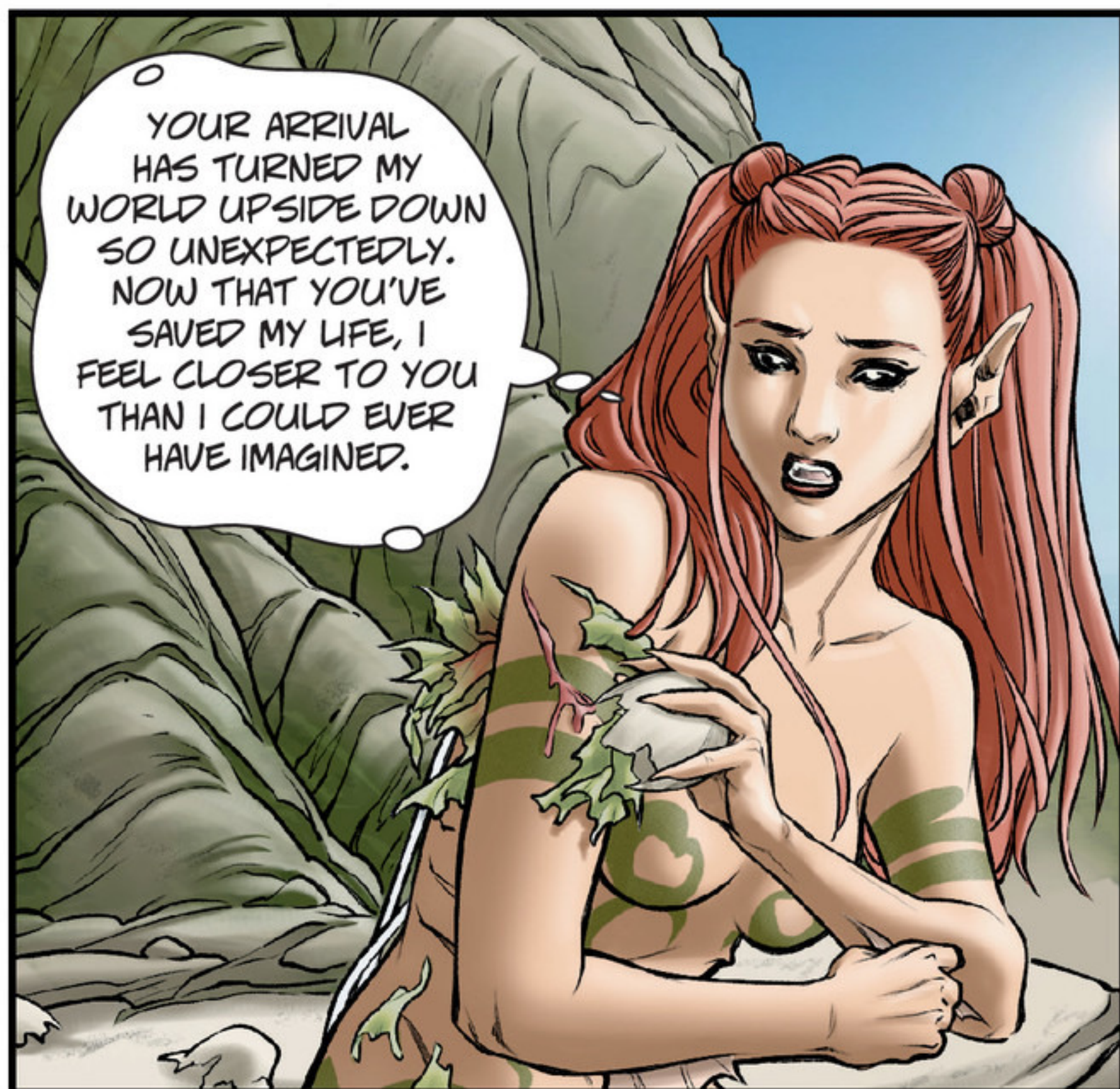


YOU MUST TRY AGAIN.

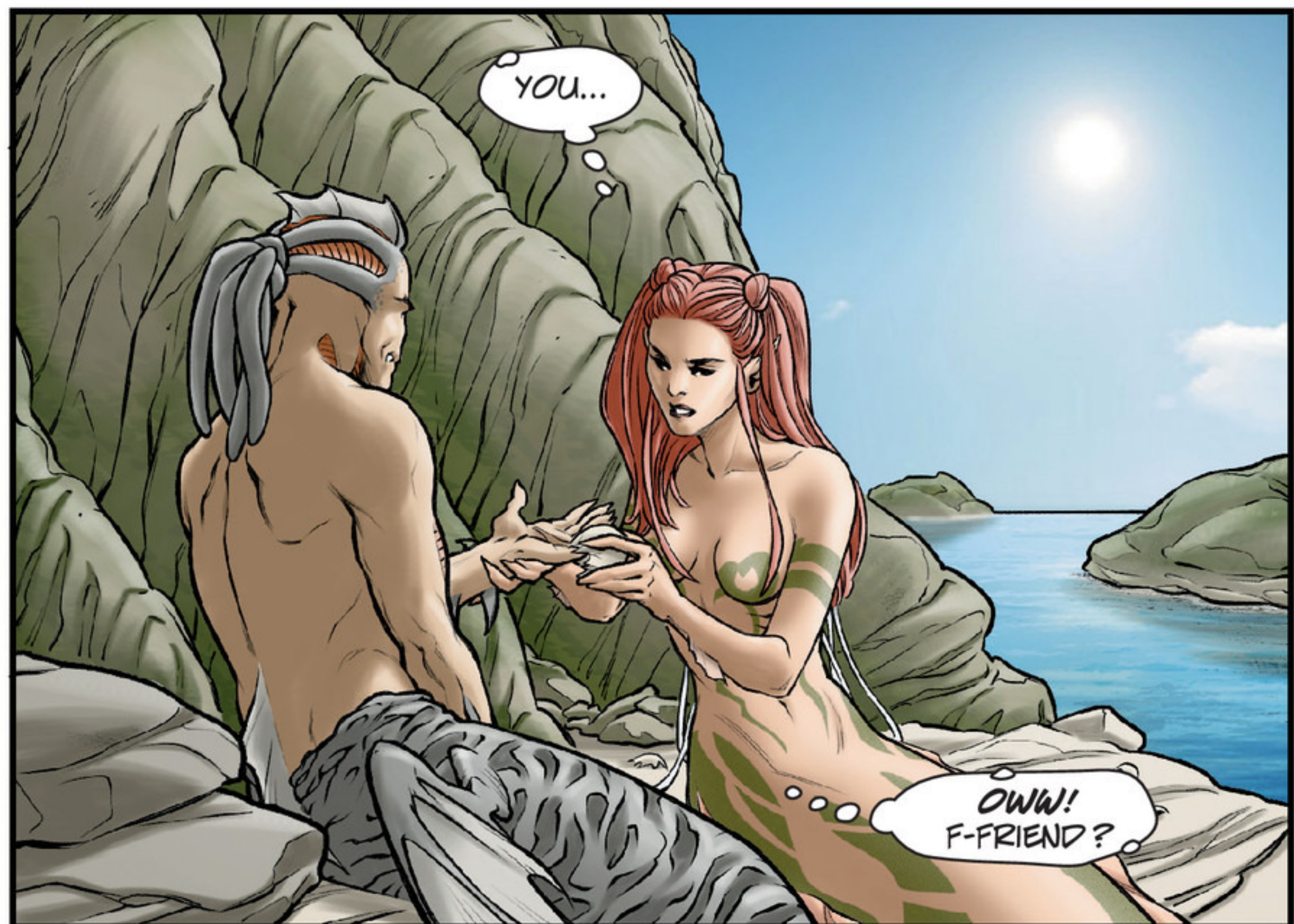
GILDWIN WANT NOBODY HURT BLODUGHADDA ANYMORE.



ANSUZ OR NOT, ONE THING'S FOR CERTAIN: YOU'RE *NOT* LIKE THE OTHER NEWTS.

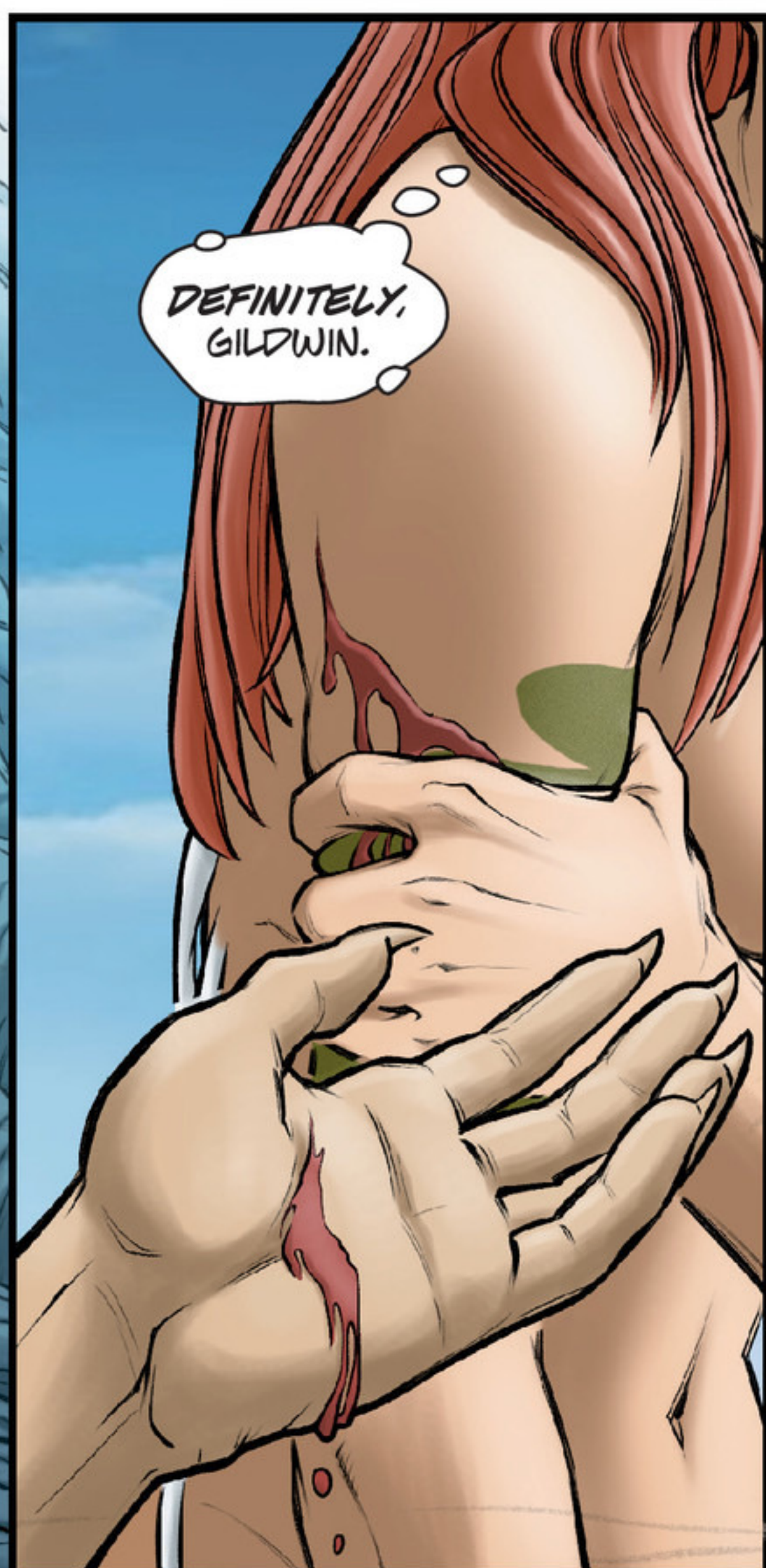


YOUR ARRIVAL HAS TURNED MY WORLD UPSIDE DOWN SO UNEXPECTEDLY. NOW THAT YOU'VE SAVED MY LIFE, I FEEL CLOSER TO YOU THAN I COULD EVER HAVE IMAGINED.

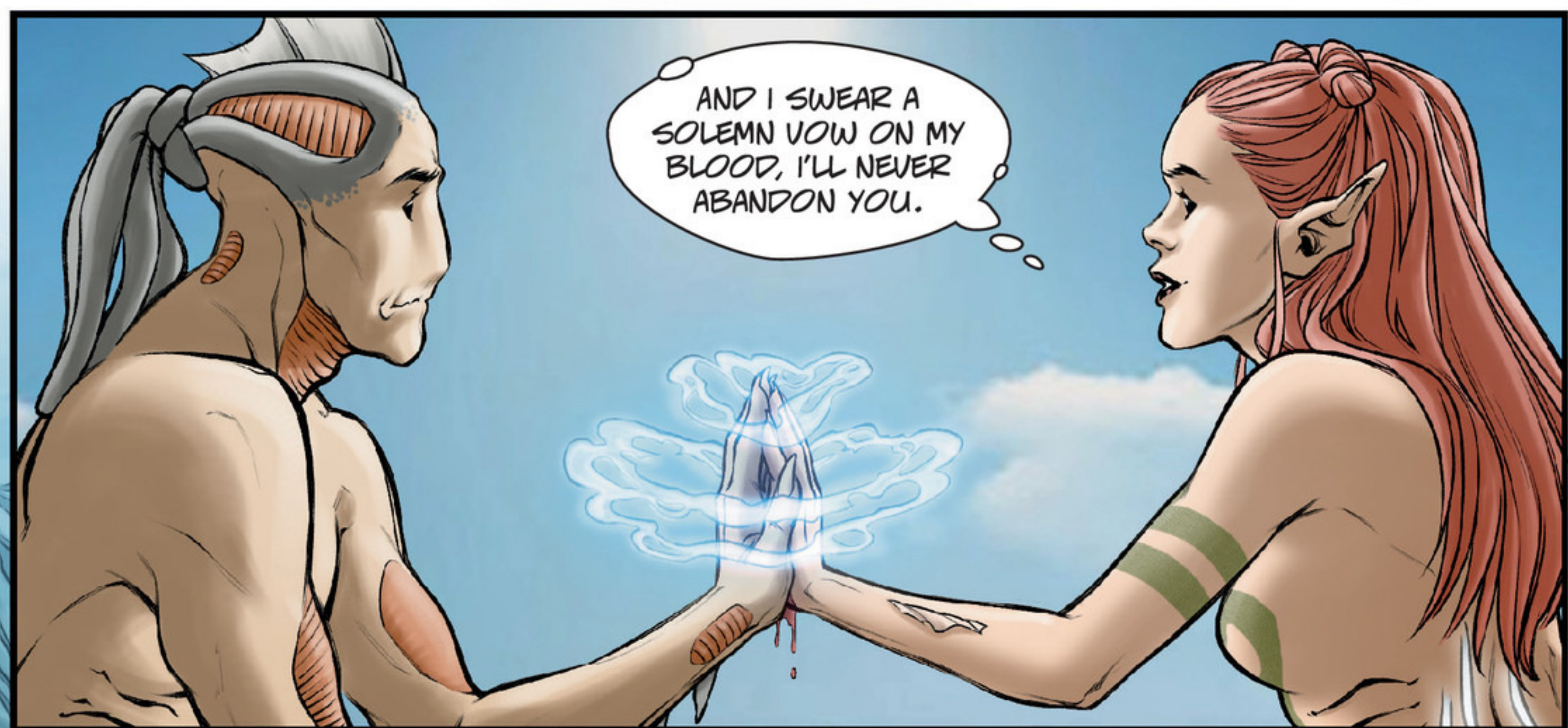


YOU...

OWW!
F-FRIEND?



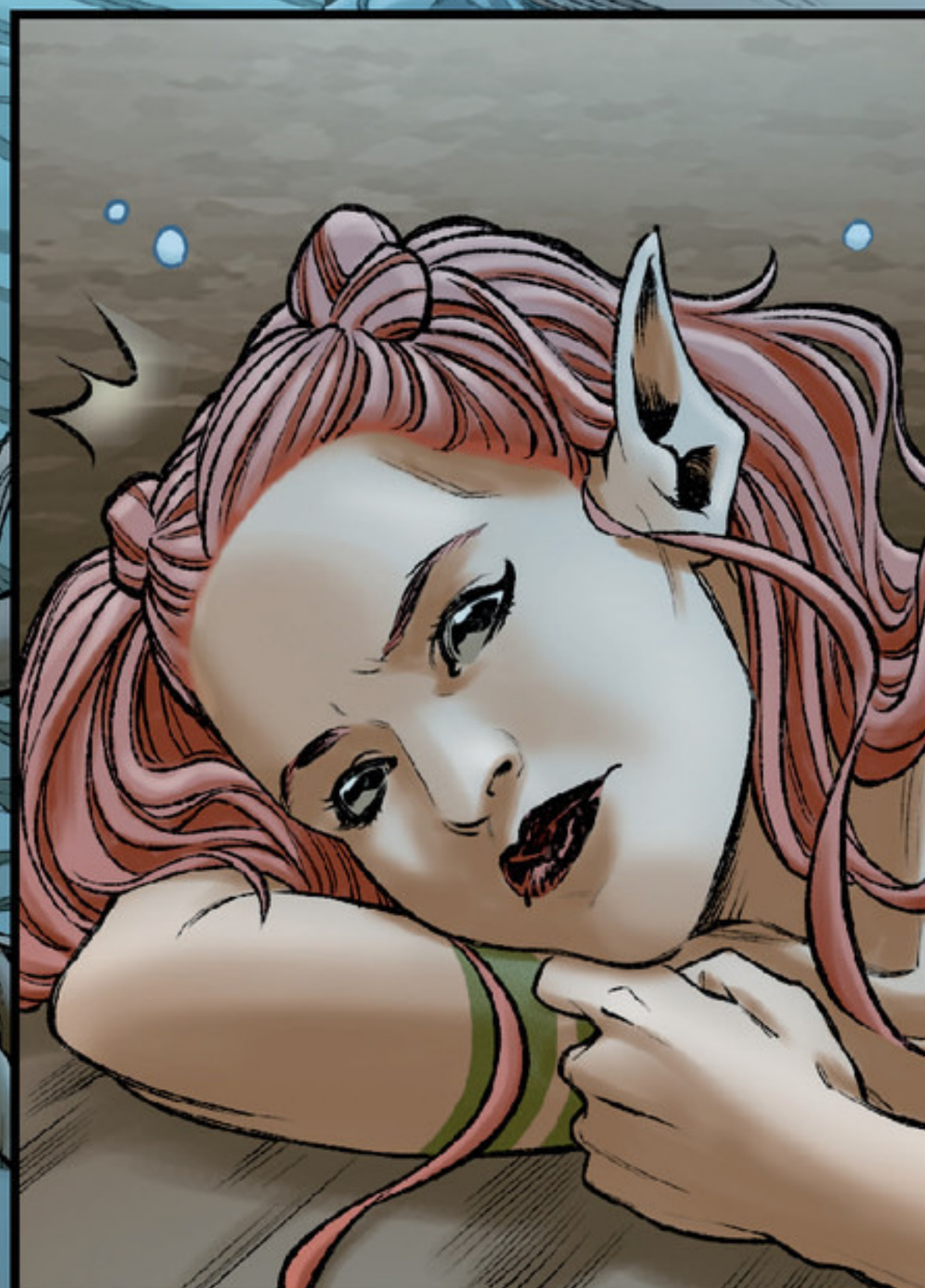
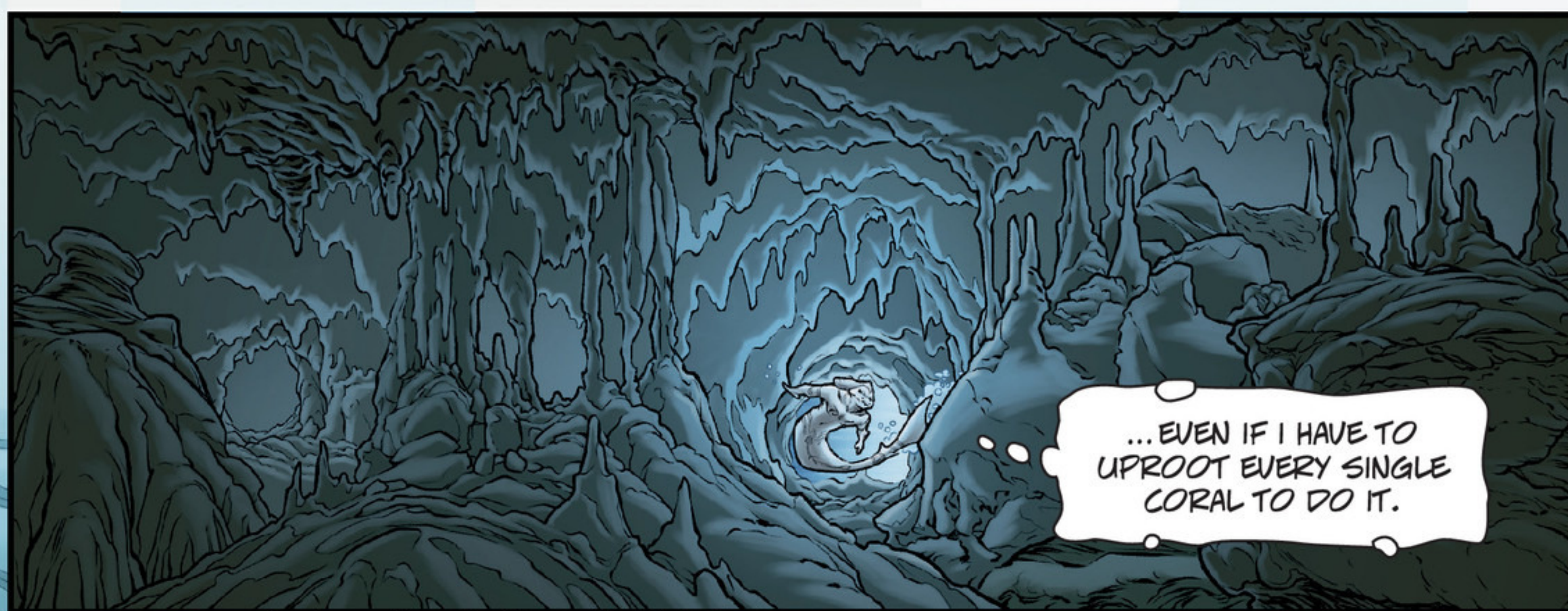
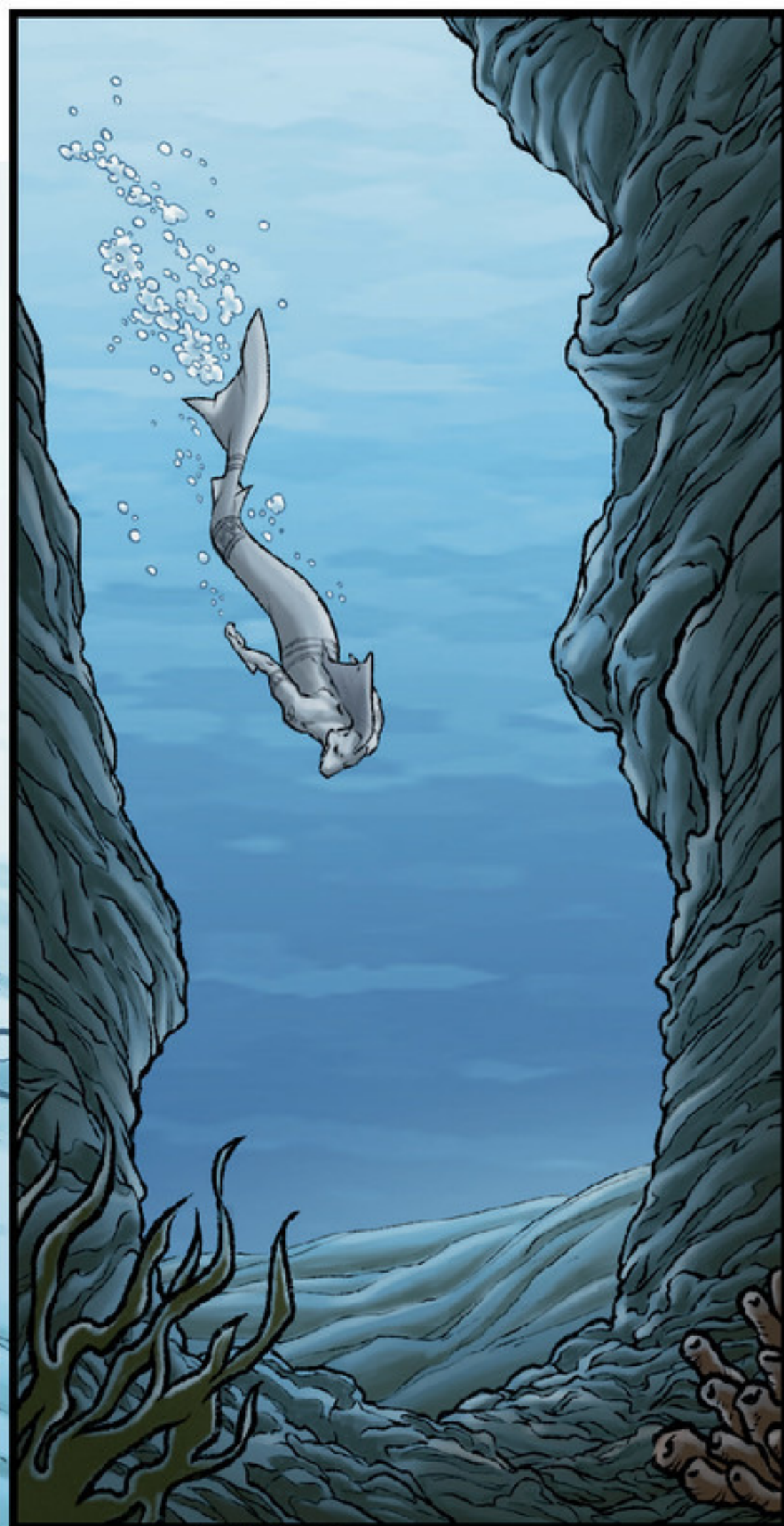
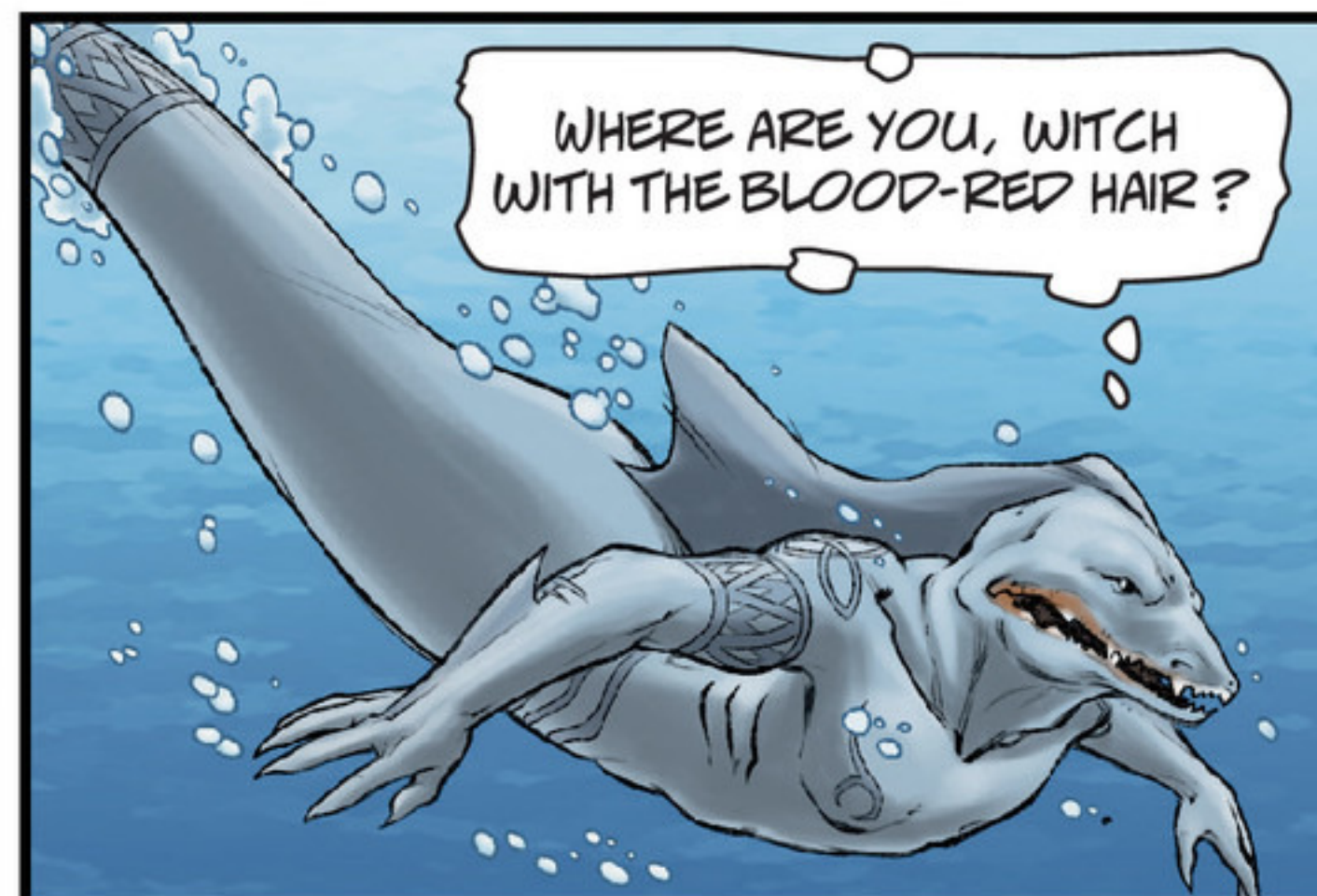
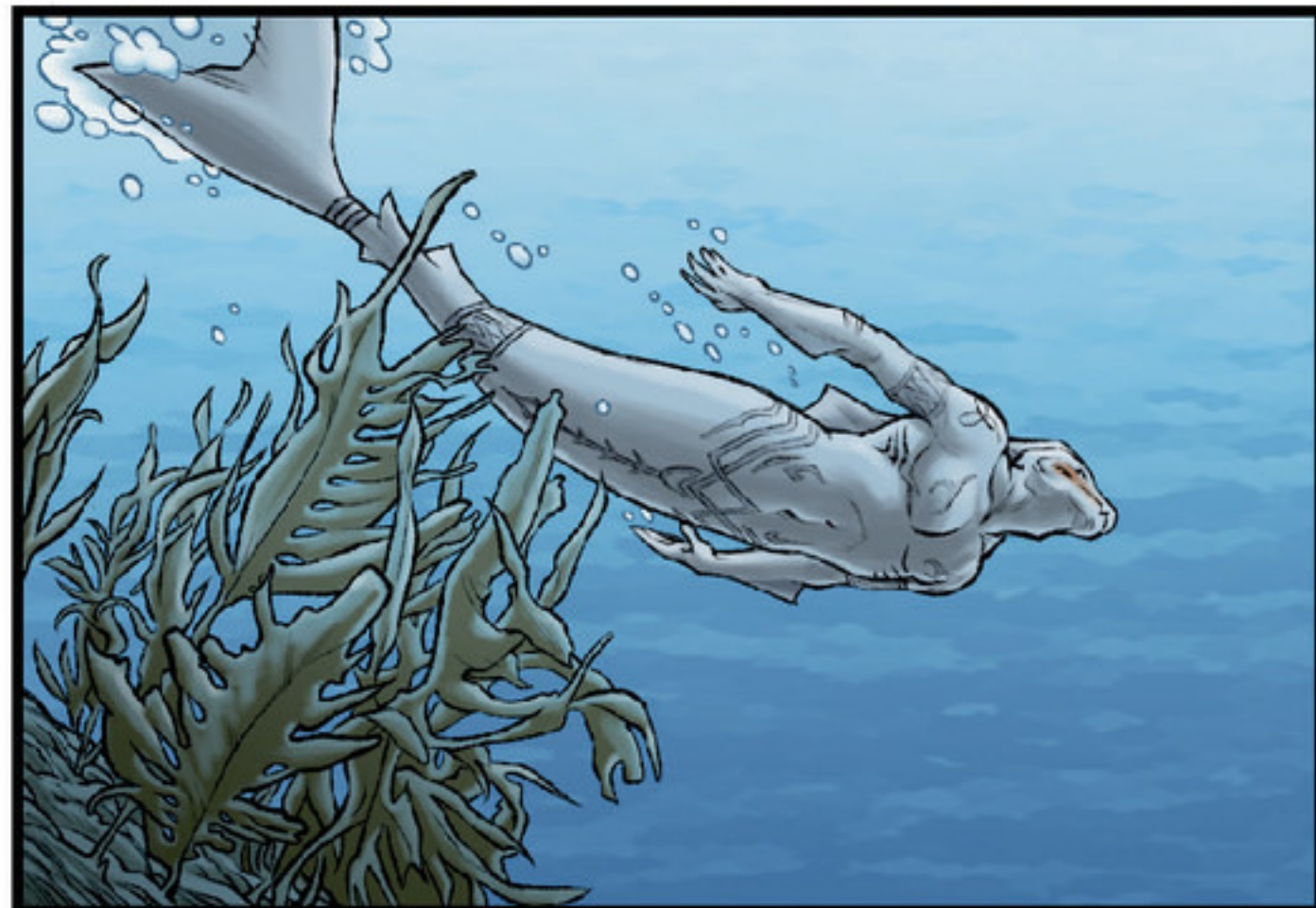
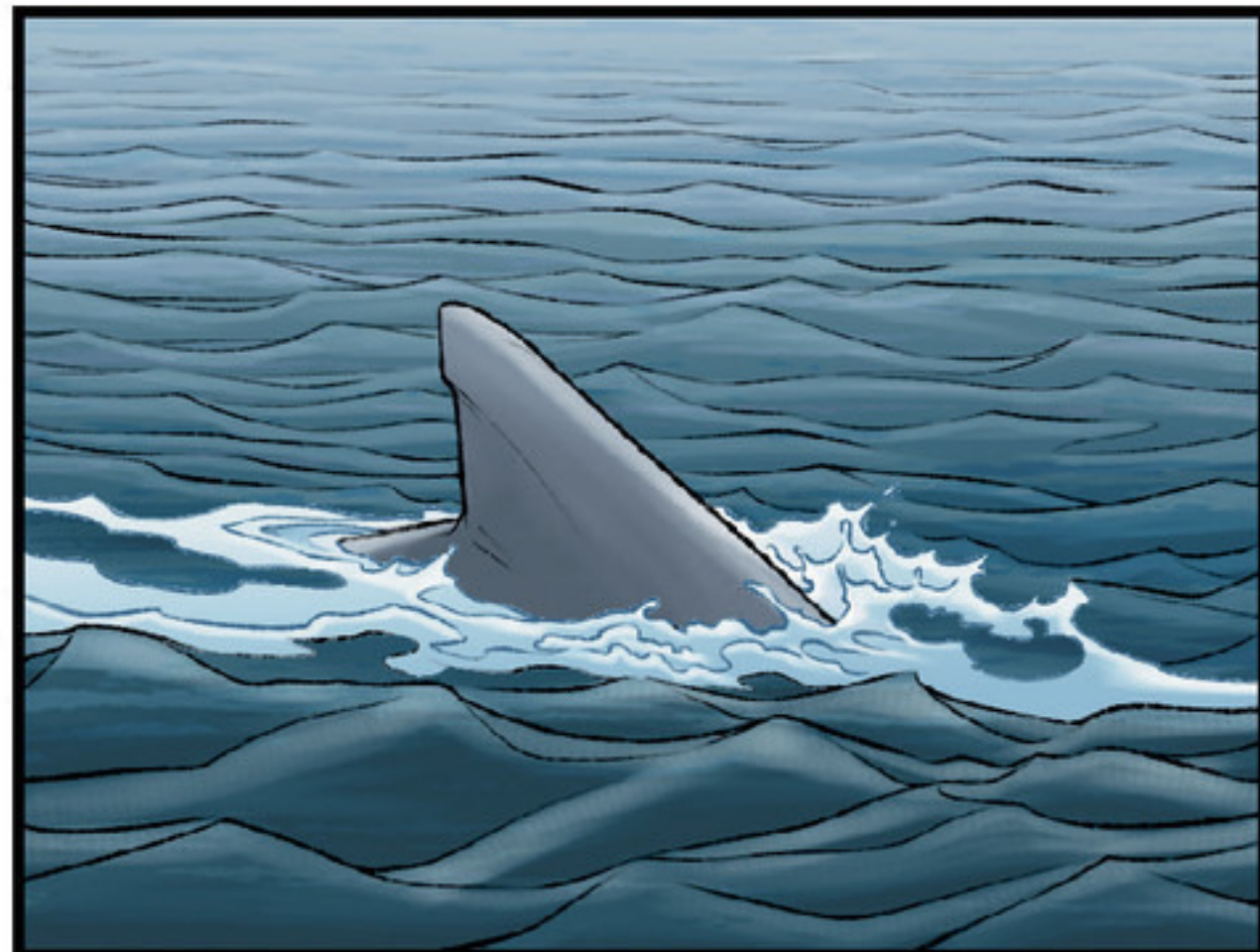
DEFINITELY, GILDWIN.



AND I SWEAR A SOLEMN VOW ON MY BLOOD, I'LL NEVER ABANDON YOU.



FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, OUR FRIENDSHIP IS ETERNAL.





Y-YOU?!



NO! COME BACK!

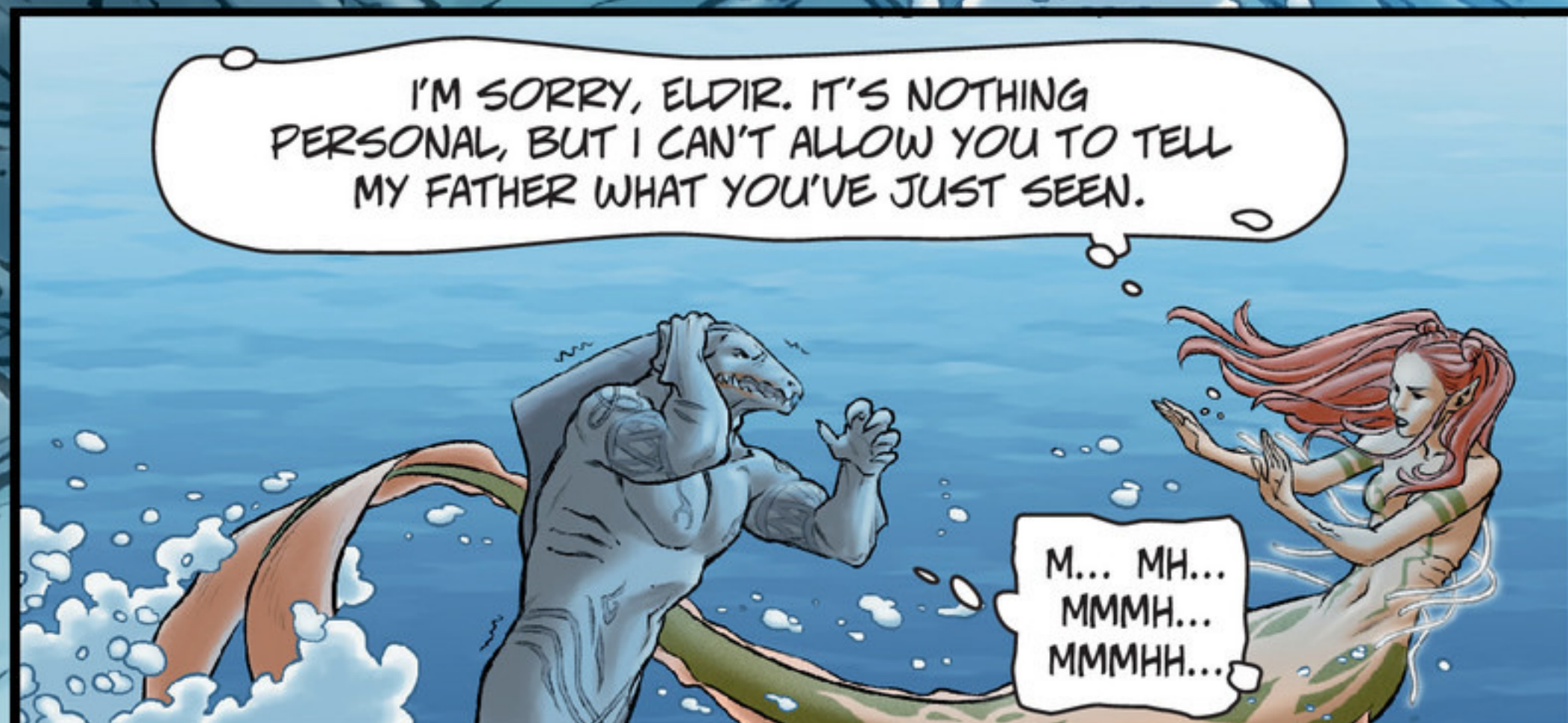


♫: jeg ved e slot, det's væg og tag ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫

N-NO! GET AWAY, YOU WITCH!

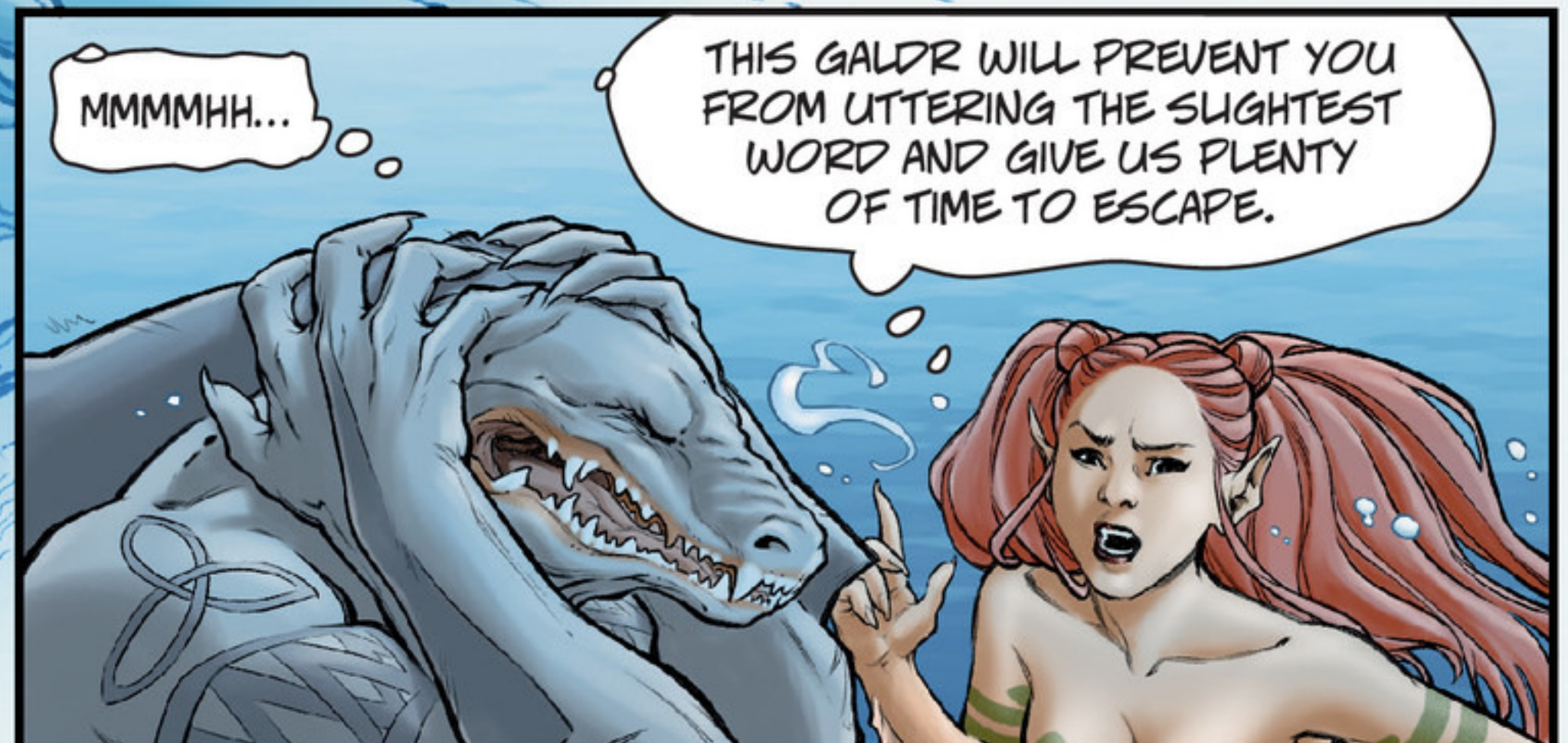


♫ er grønne bølger GH... på lag... ♫ ♫



I'M SORRY, ELDIR. IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL, BUT I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO TELL MY FATHER WHAT YOU'VE JUST SEEN.

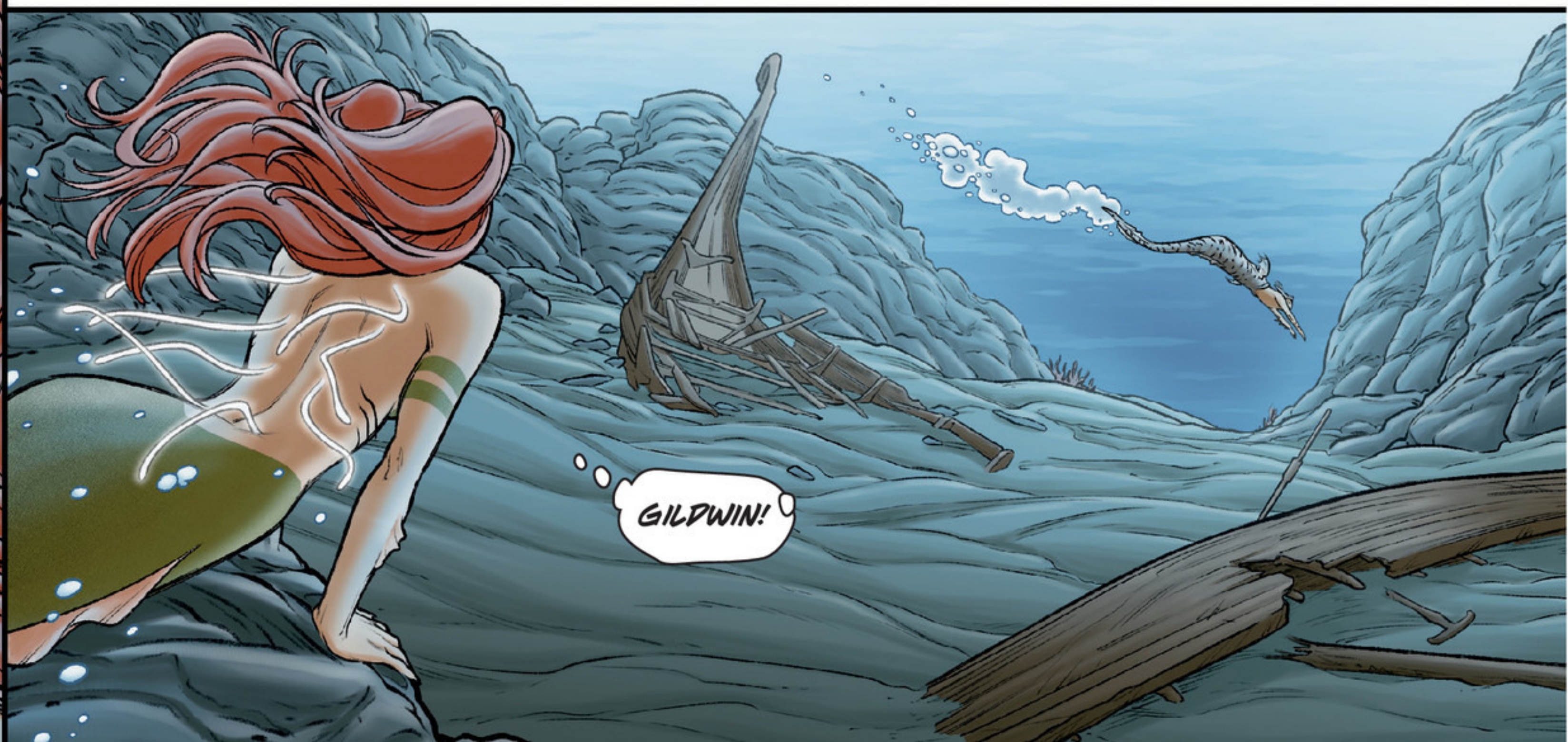
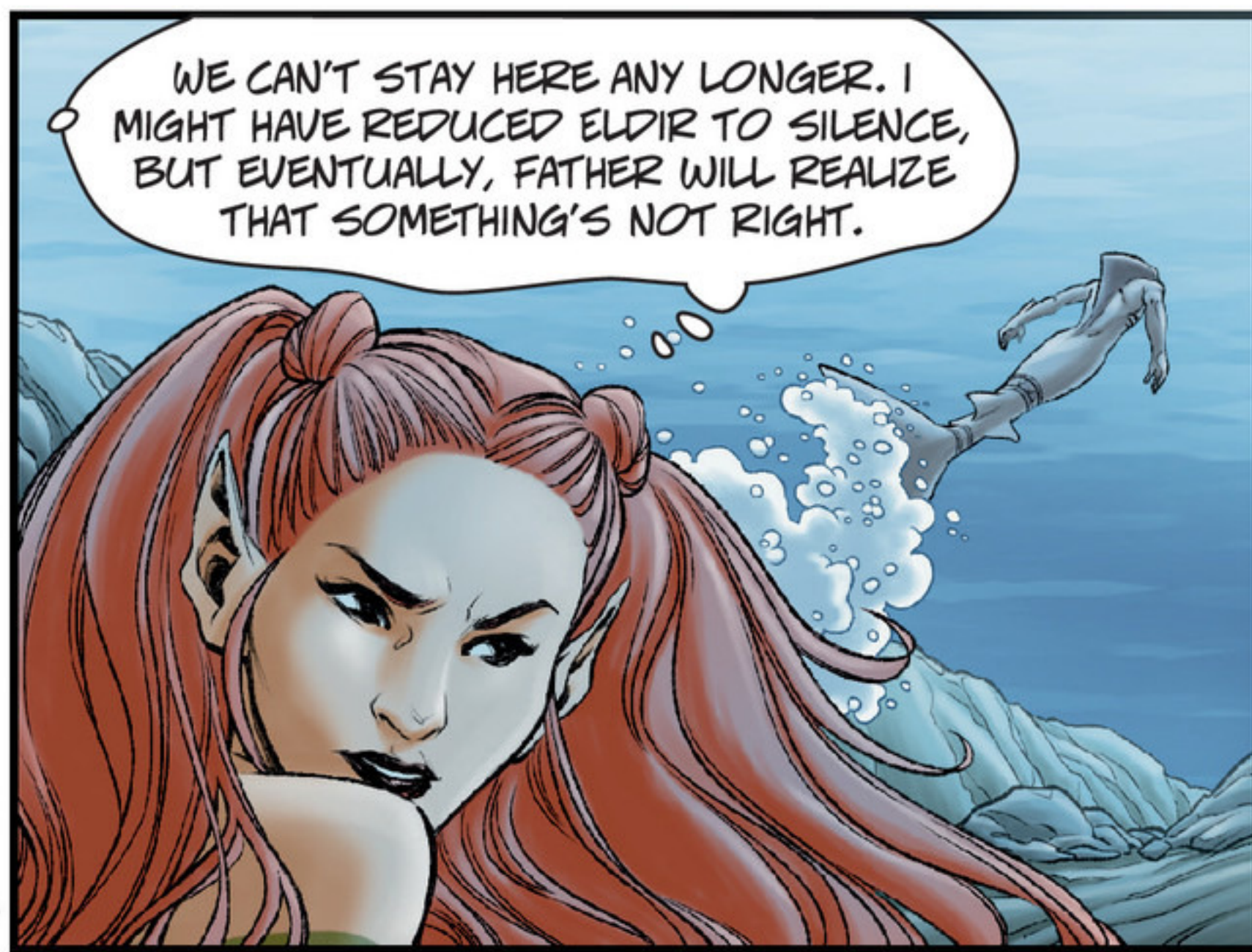
M... MH...
MMMHH...
MMMHH...

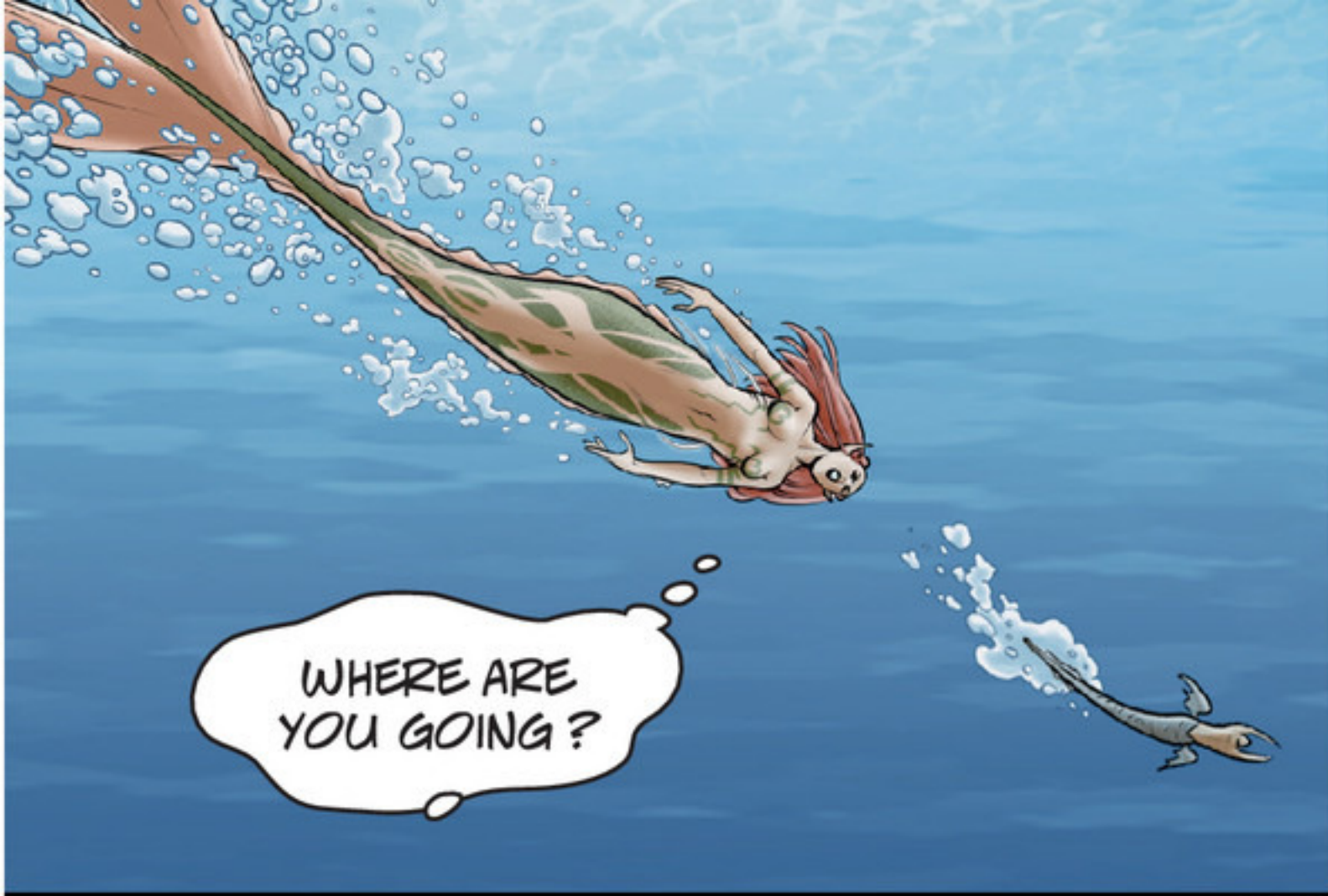


MMMHHH...

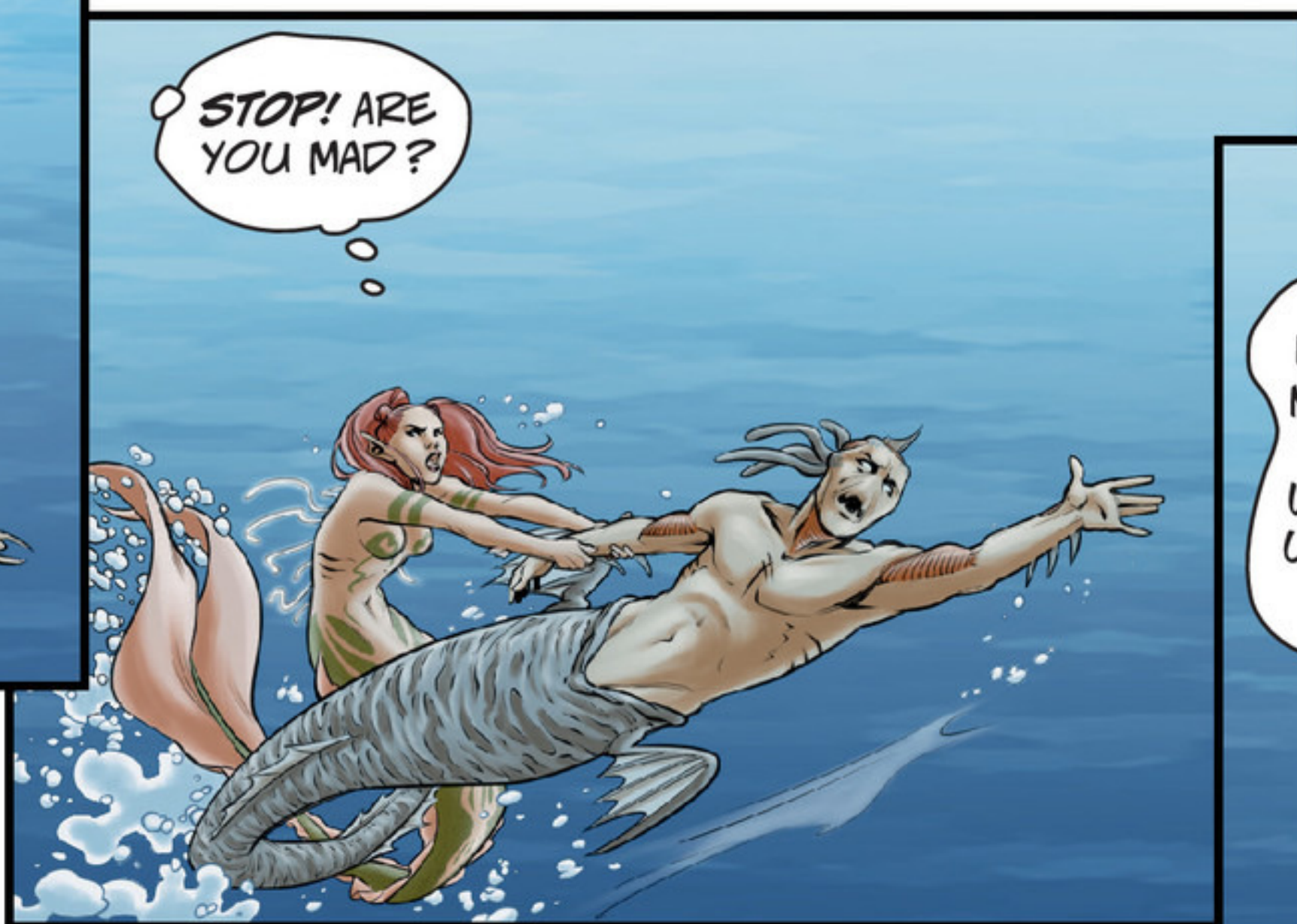
THIS GALDR WILL PREVENT YOU FROM UTTERING THE SLIGHTEST WORD AND GIVE US PLENTY OF TIME TO ESCAPE.



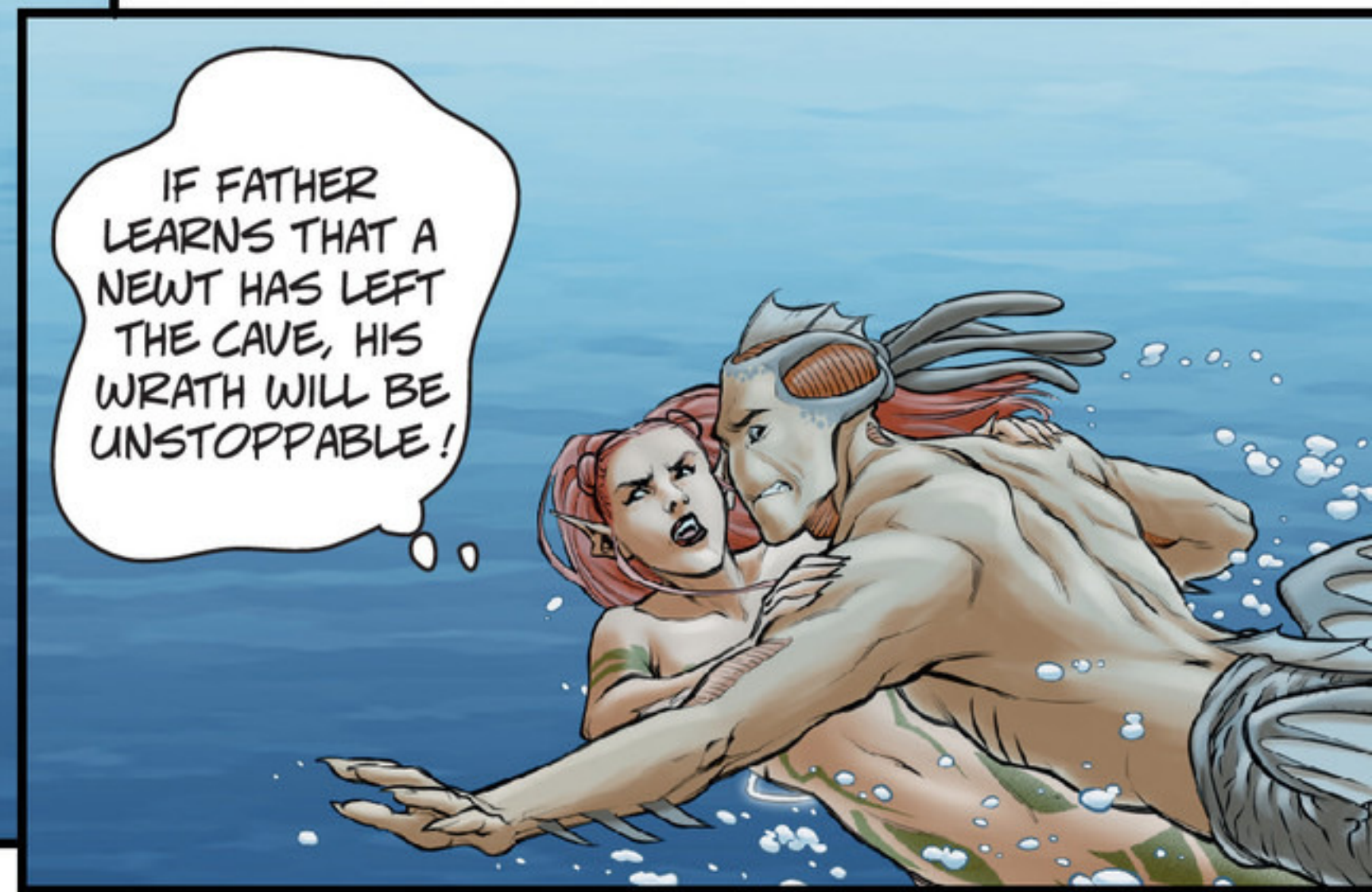




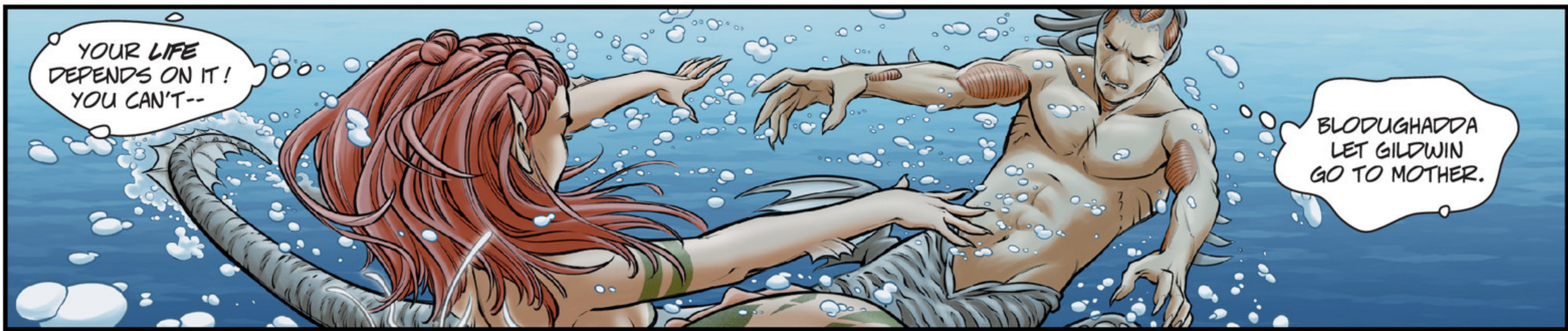
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



STOP! ARE YOU MAD?



IF FATHER LEARNS THAT A NEWT HAS LEFT THE CAVE, HIS WRATH WILL BE UNSTOPPABLE!

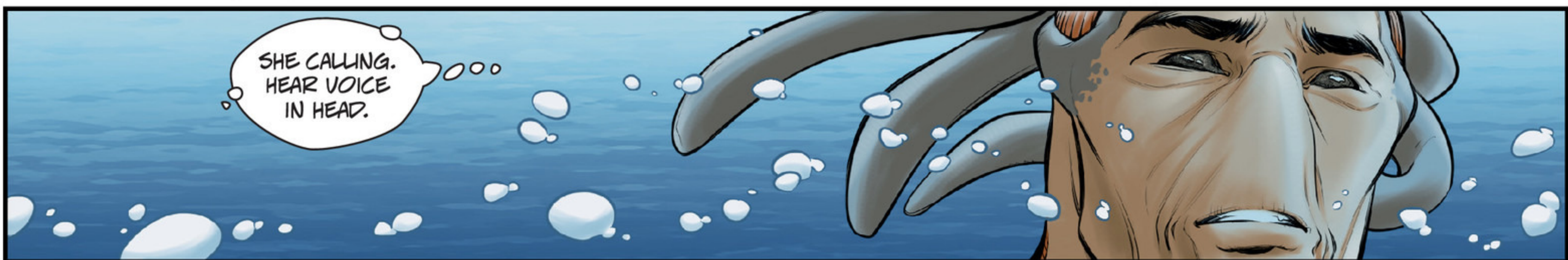


YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT! YOU CAN'T--

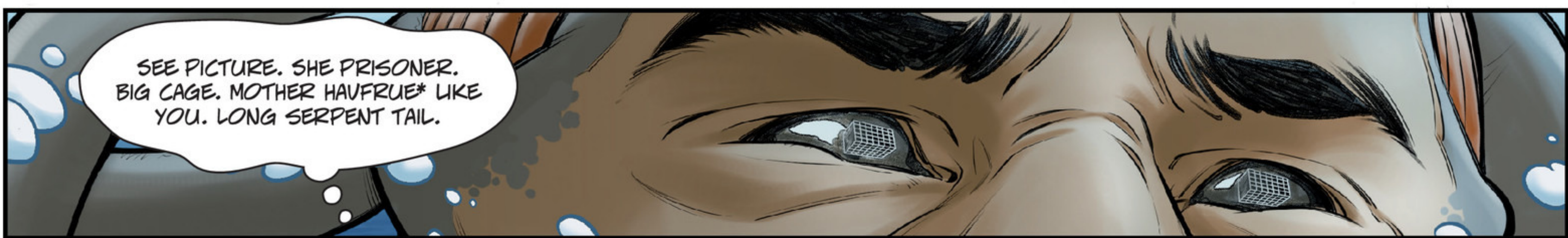
BLODUGHADDA LET GILDWIN GO TO MOTHER.



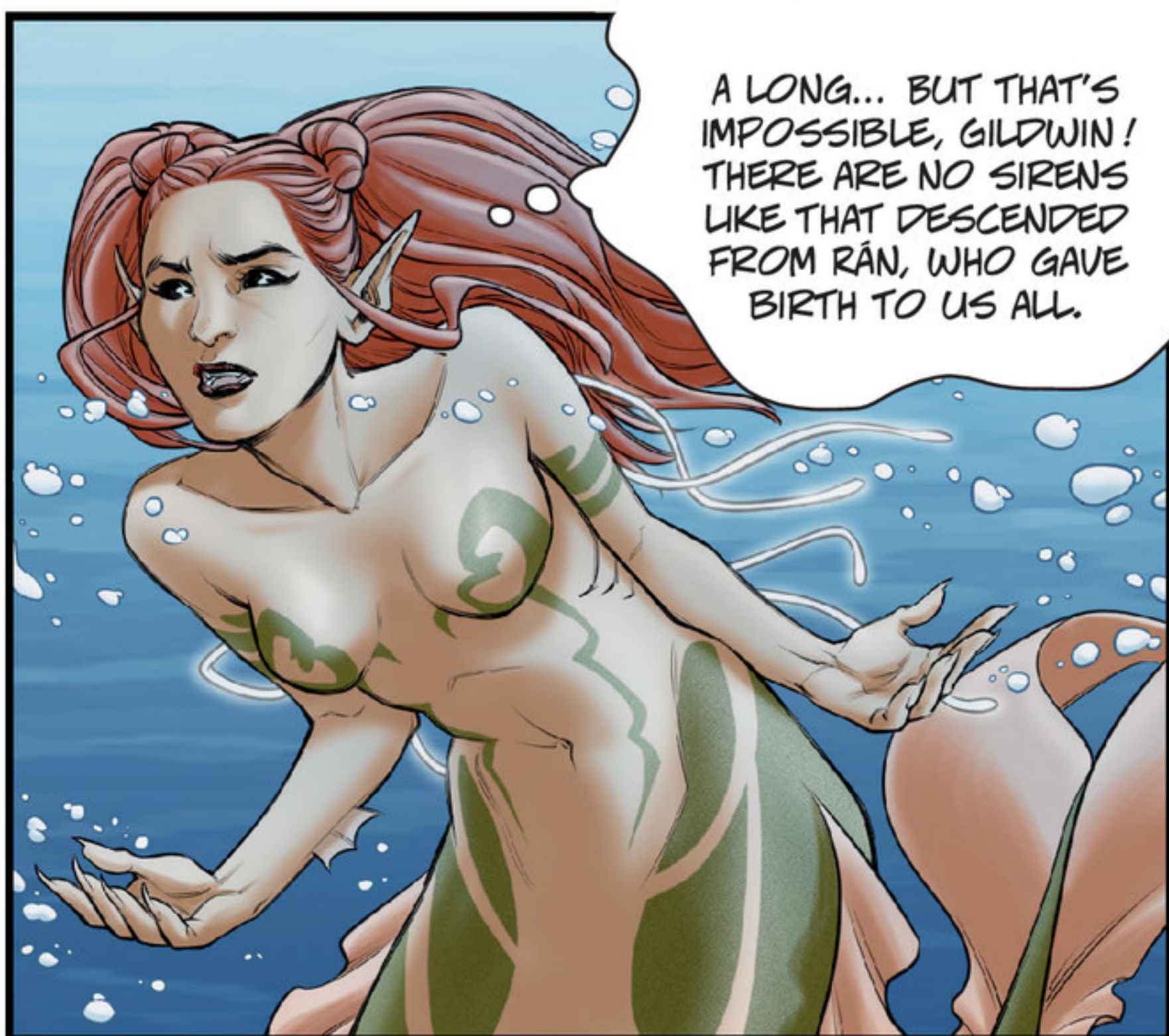
BUT... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



SHE CALLING. HEAR VOICE IN HEAD.



SEE PICTURE. SHE PRISONER. BIG CAGE. MOTHER HAVFRUE* LIKE YOU. LONG SERPENT TAIL.



A LONG... BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, GILDWIN! THERE ARE NO SIRENS LIKE THAT DESCENDED FROM RAN, WHO GAVE BIRTH TO US ALL.



YOU MUST HAVE BEEN DREAMING.

COME WITH ME NOW, I'M BEGGING YOU!

*SIREN.



I CAME AS FAST
AS I COULD, FATHER.
WHAT IS IT?

UDR, MY DAUGHTER...
I AM IN NEED OF YOUR
HEALING POWERS.

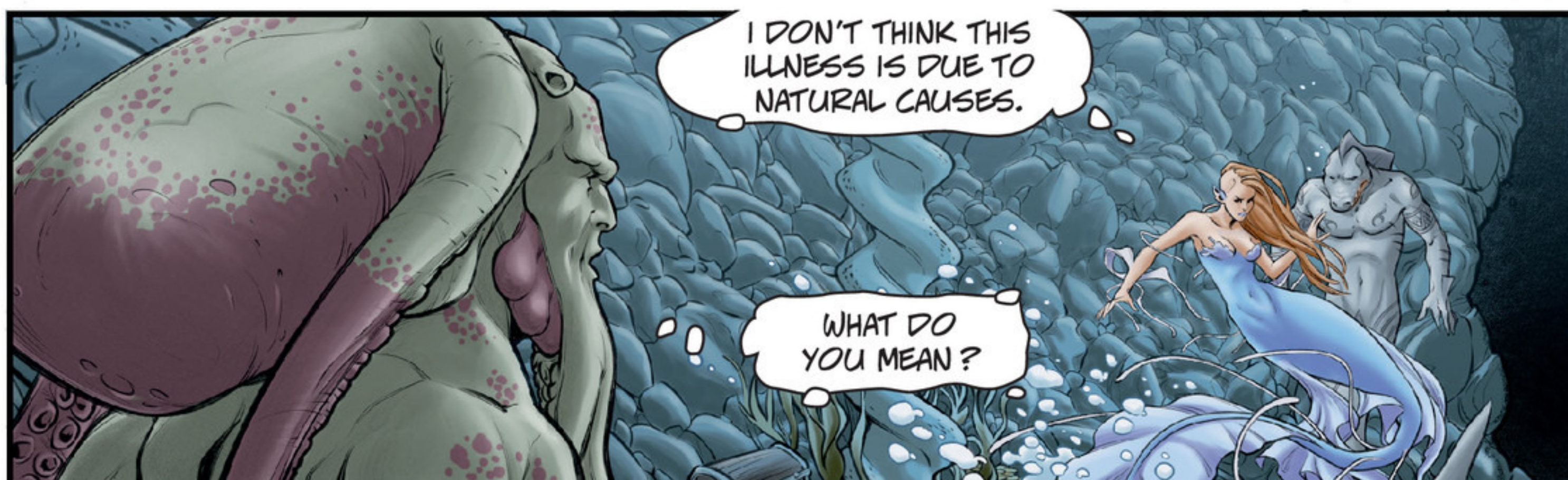


IT'S ELDIR. HE IS
AFFLICTED BY A STRANGE
ILLNESS. I HAVE NEVER
SEEN THE LIKE. HE IS
UNABLE TO SPEAK.



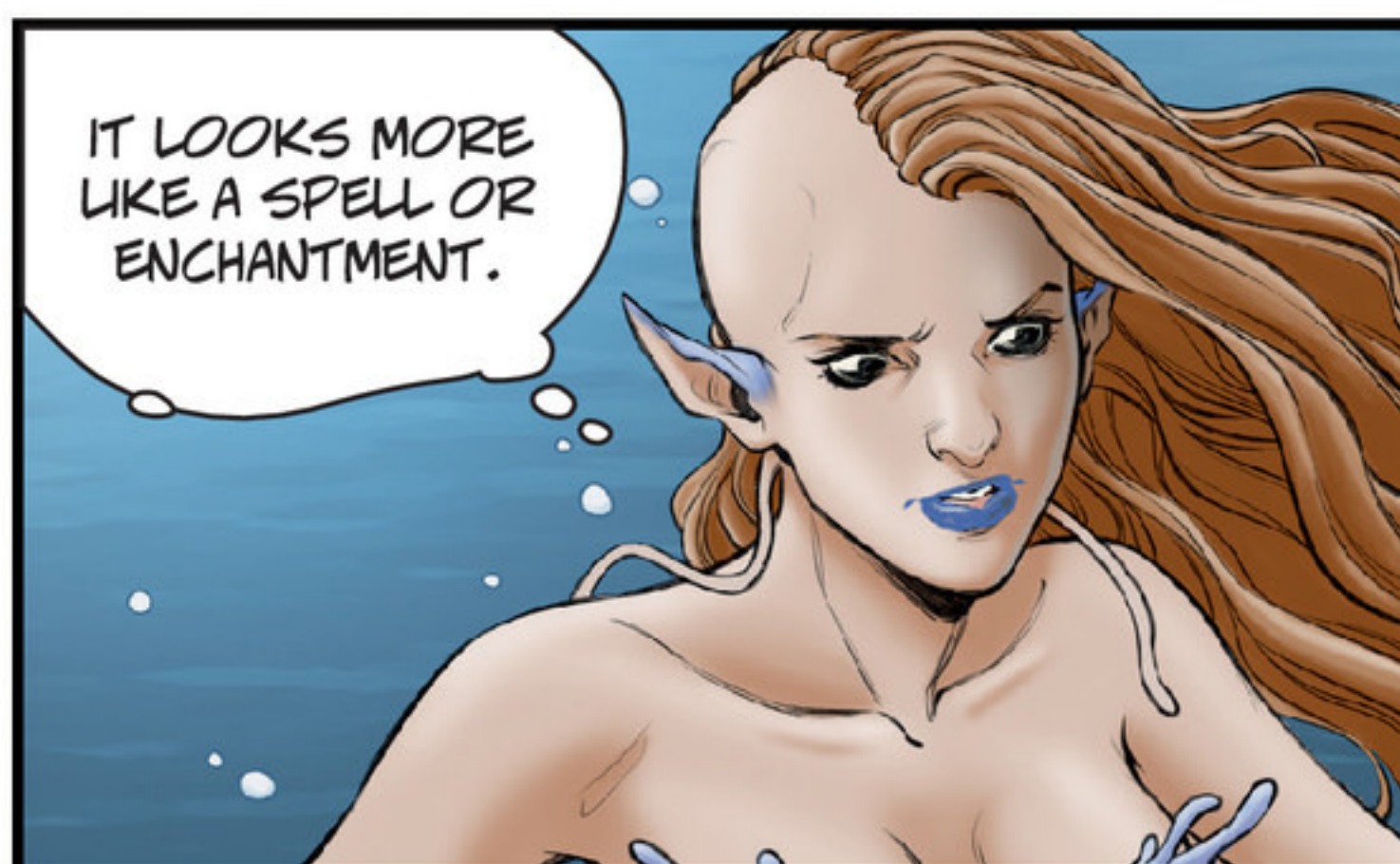
PERHAPS HE
WAS STUNG BY
SOME TROPICAL
JELLYFISH, LOST
IN OUR SEAS,
WHICH HAS LEFT
HIM PARALYZED?

I CAN'T SEE
ANYTHING THAT LOOKS
LIKE A STING. AND ALL
OF HIS ORGANS
SEEM HEALTHY.



I DON'T THINK THIS
ILLNESS IS DUE TO
NATURAL CAUSES.

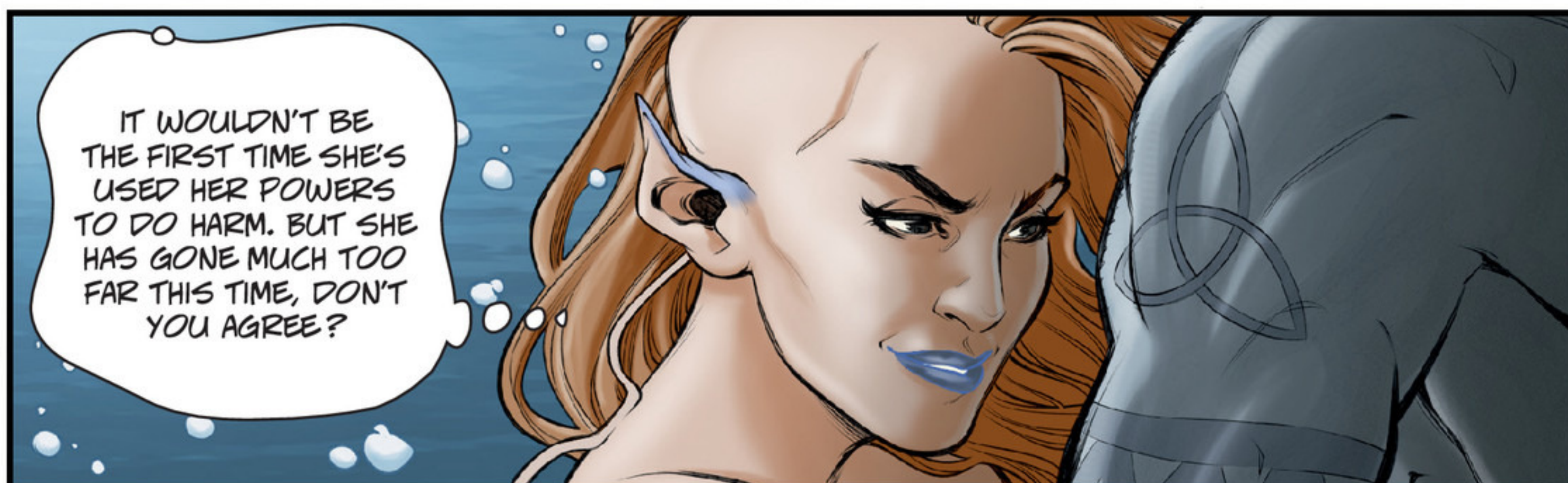
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?



IT LOOKS MORE
LIKE A SPELL OR
ENCHANTMENT.



BLODUGHADDA...



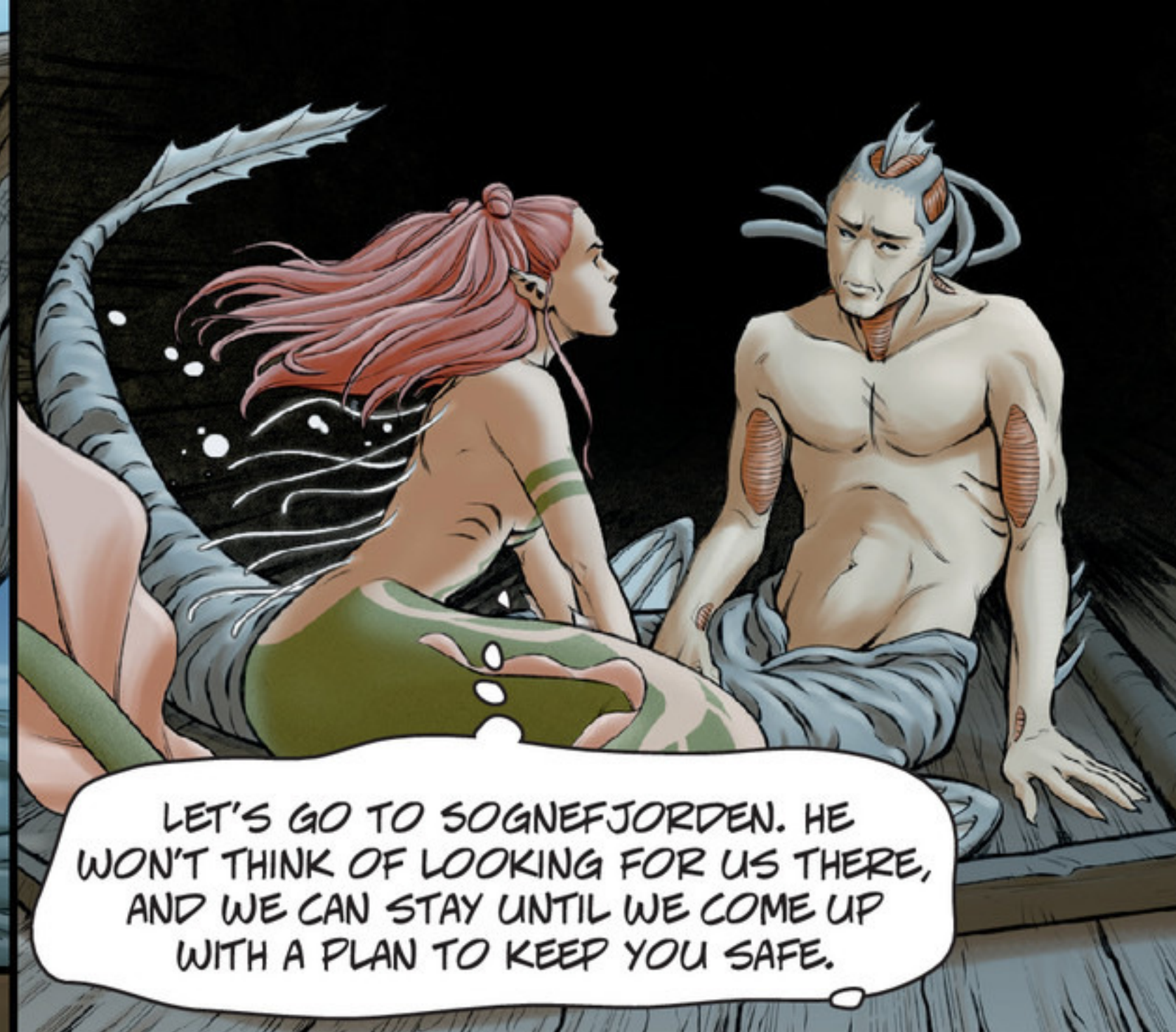
IT WOULDN'T BE
THE FIRST TIME SHE'S
USED HER POWERS
TO DO HARM. BUT SHE
HAS GONE MUCH TOO
FAR THIS TIME, DON'T
YOU AGREE?



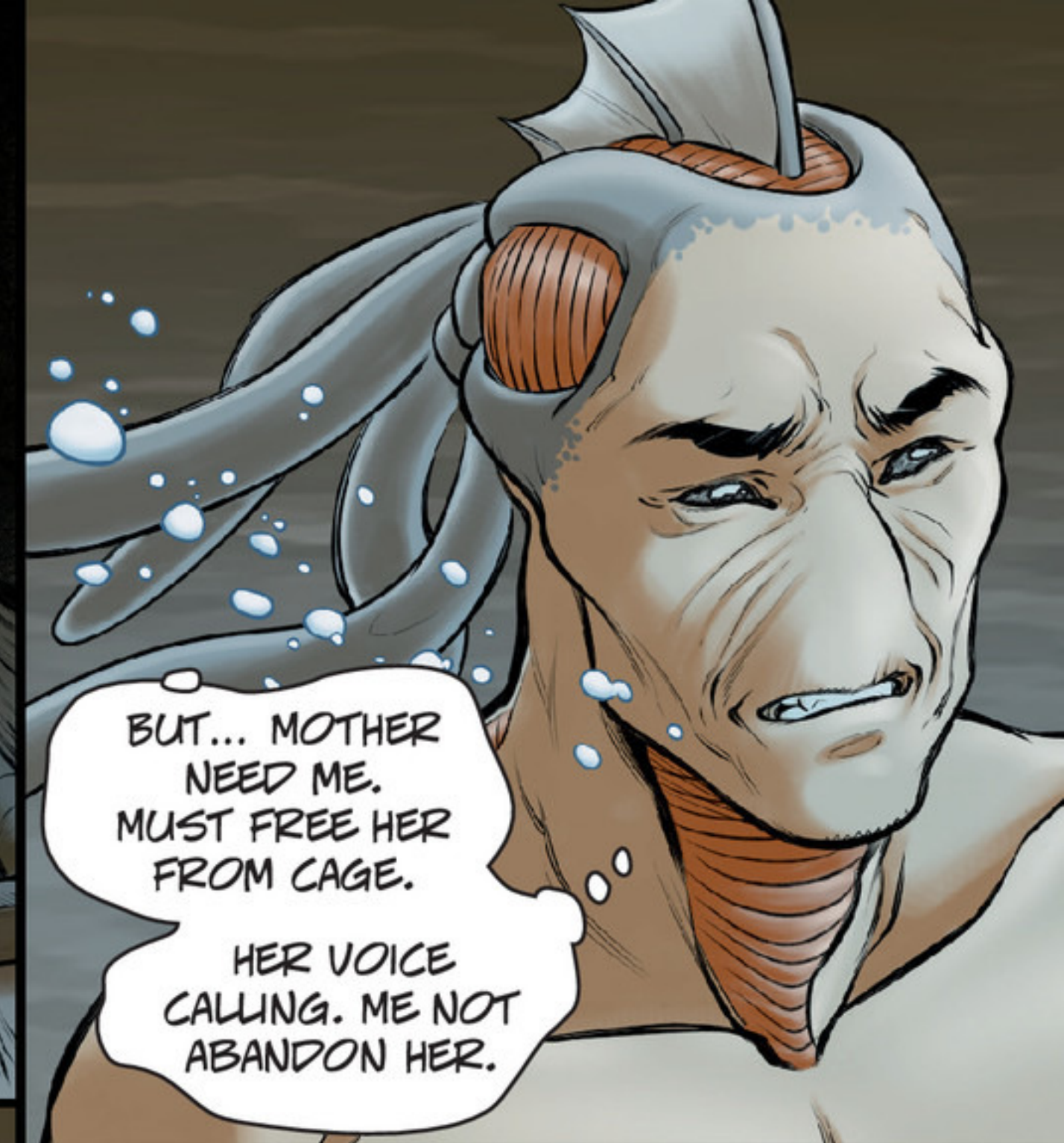
HMM... YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT'S TIME TO STOP
BEING SOFT ON HER...



WE NEED TO GO AWAY
AND HIDE. IF ELDIR FOUND
US, THEN IT WON'T TAKE MY
FATHER LONG, EITHER.

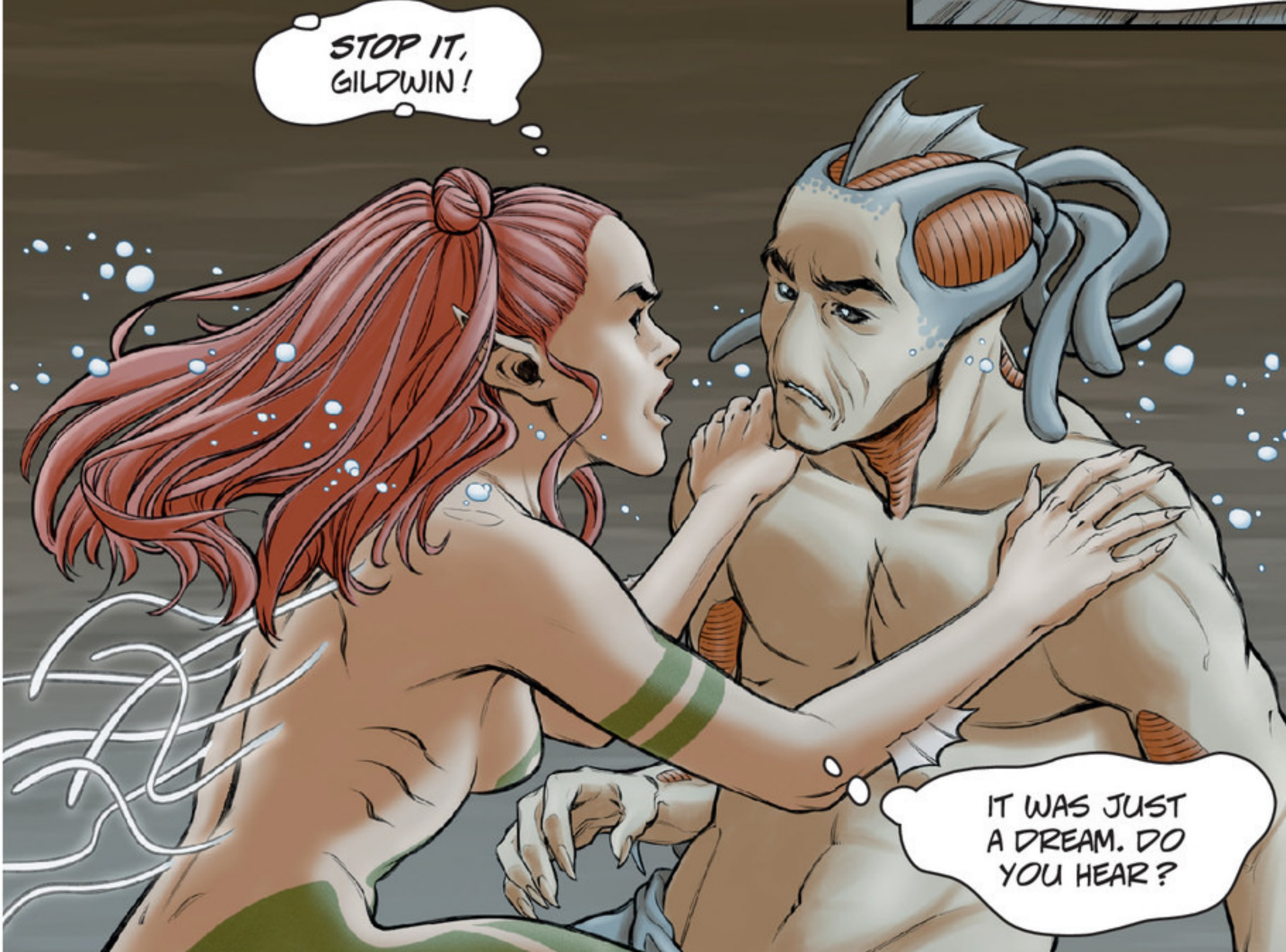


LET'S GO TO SOGNEFJORDEN. HE
WON'T THINK OF LOOKING FOR US THERE,
AND WE CAN STAY UNTIL WE COME UP
WITH A PLAN TO KEEP YOU SAFE.



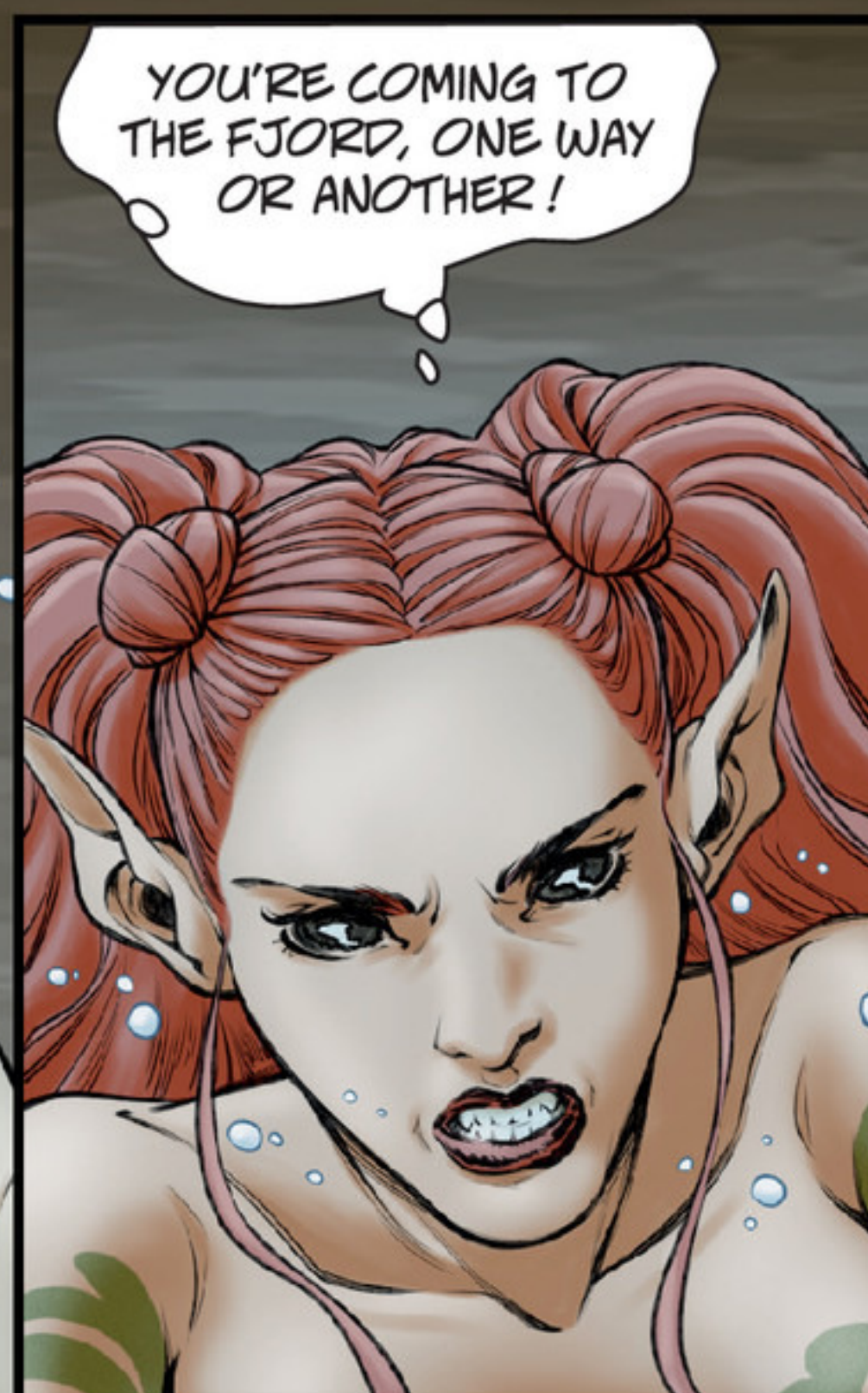
BUT... MOTHER
NEED ME.
MUST FREE HER
FROM CAGE.

HER VOICE
CALLING. ME NOT
ABANDON HER.



STOP IT,
GILDWIN!

IT WAS JUST
A DREAM. DO
YOU HEAR?



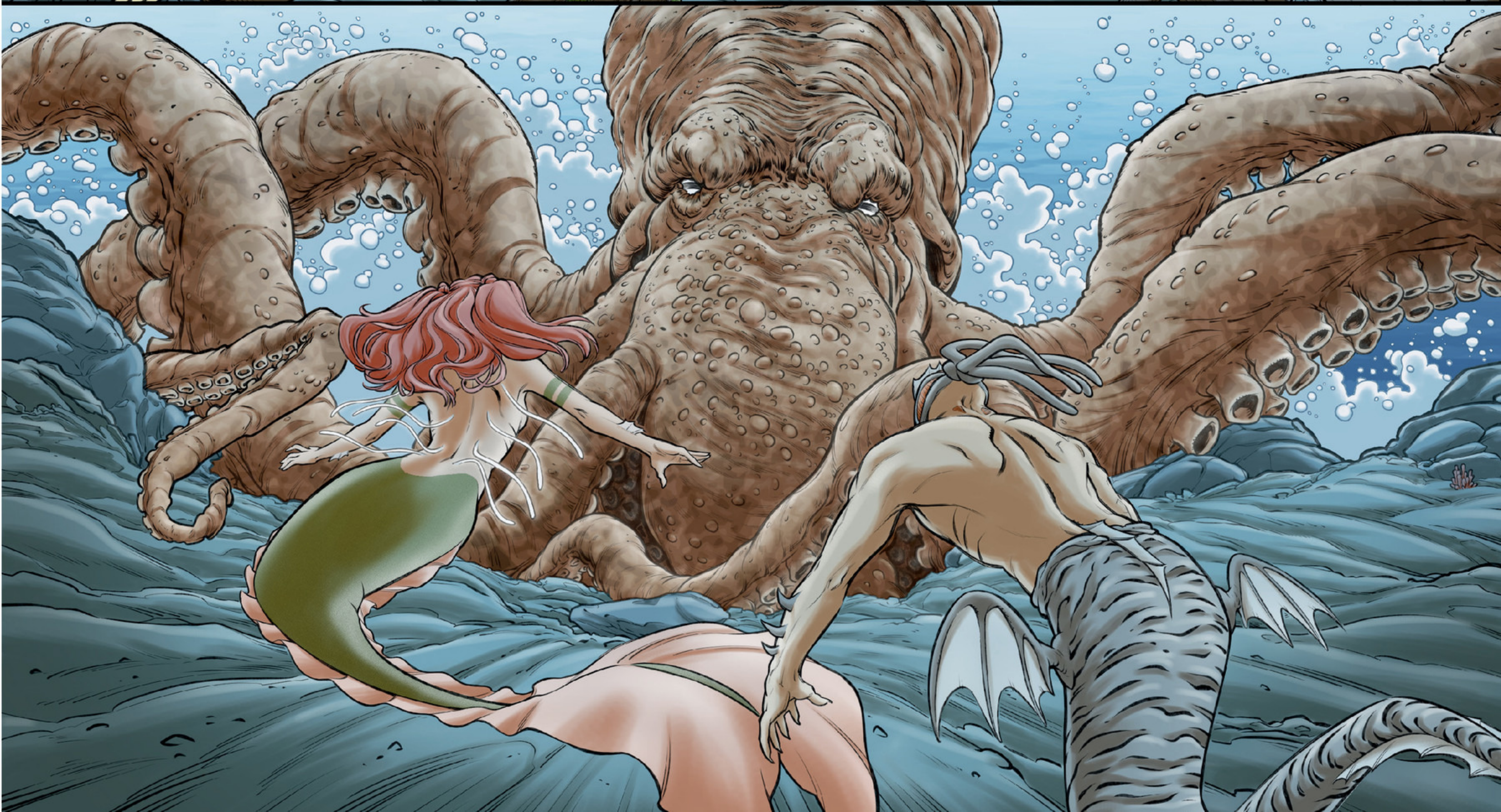
YOU'RE COMING TO
THE FJORD, ONE WAY
OR ANOTHER!

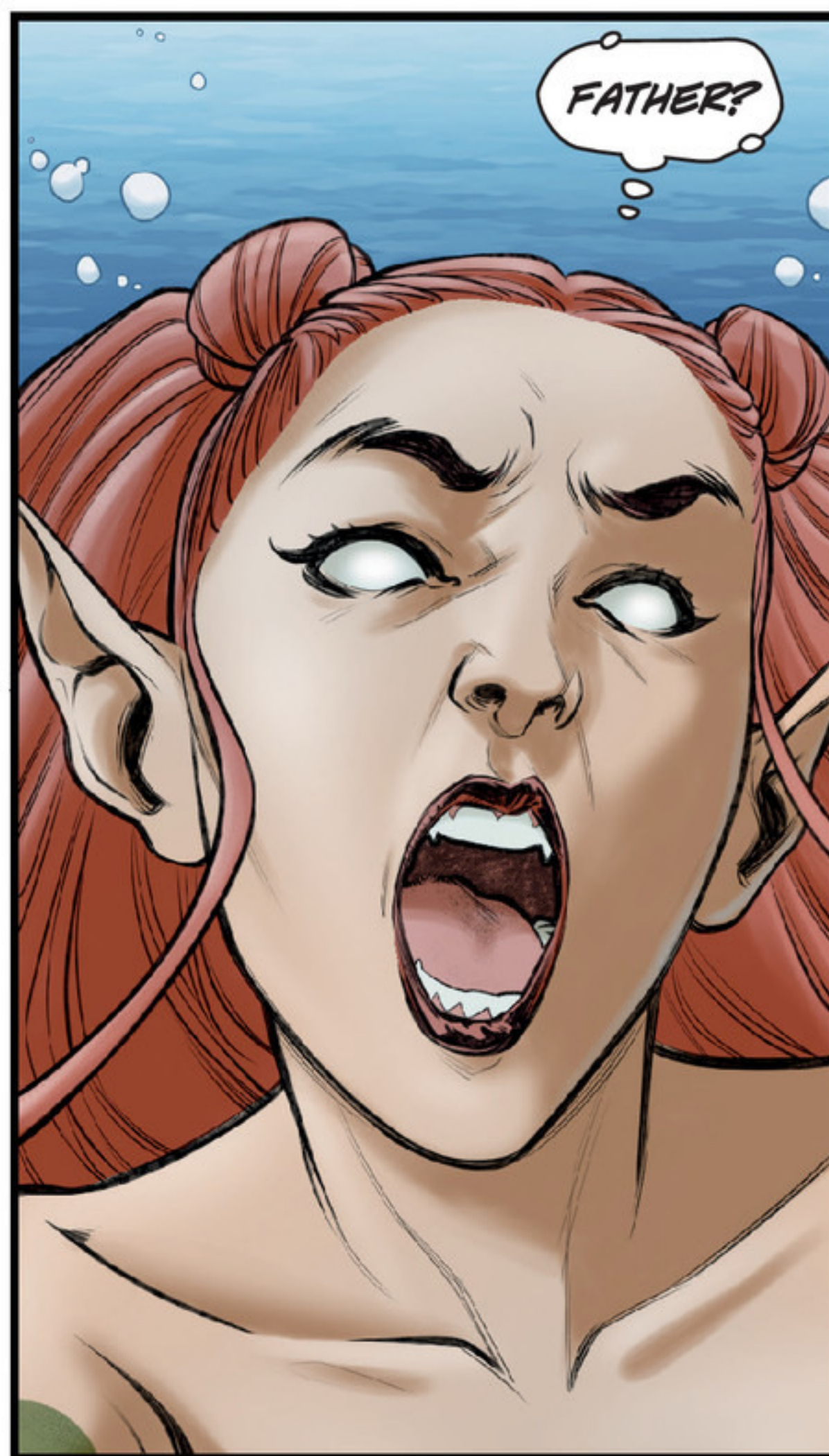
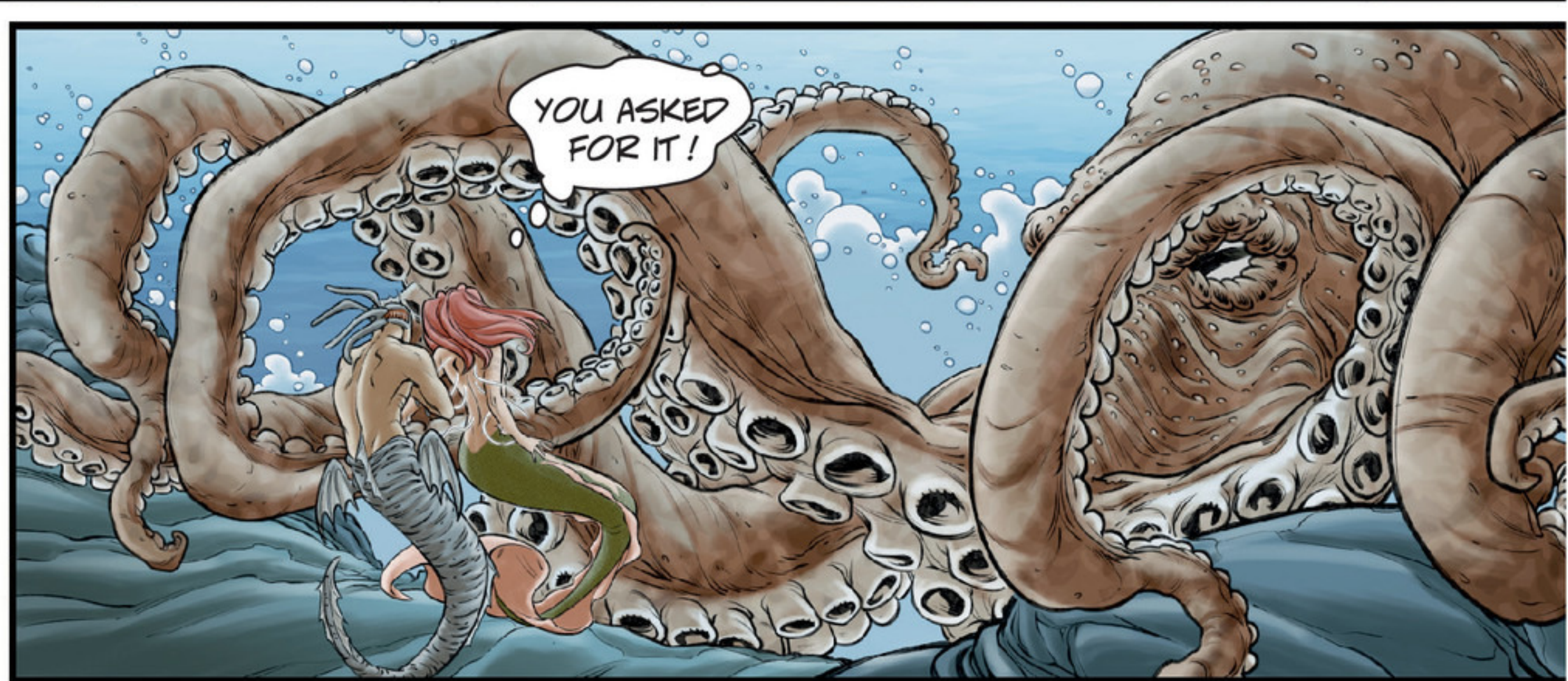
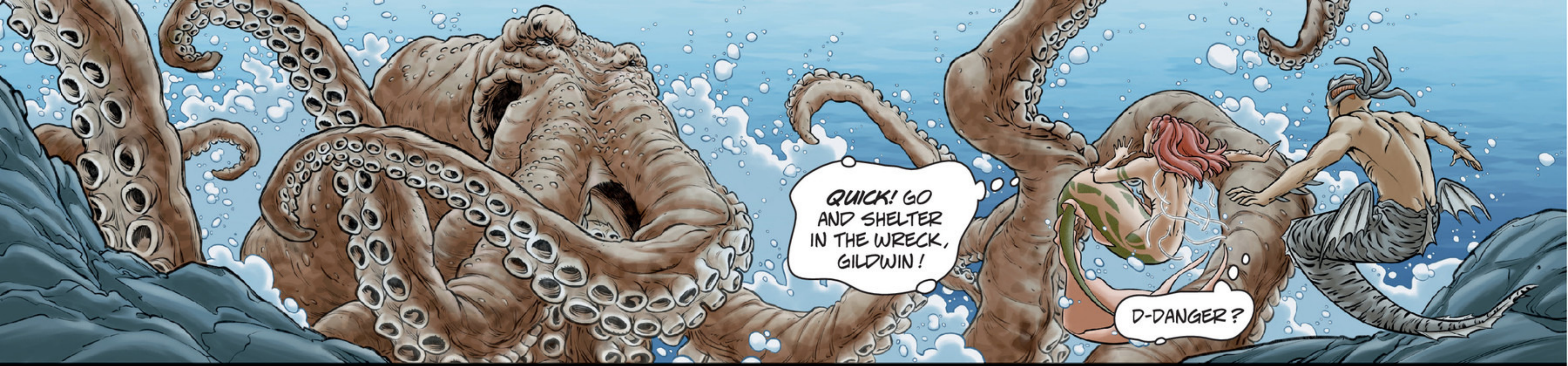


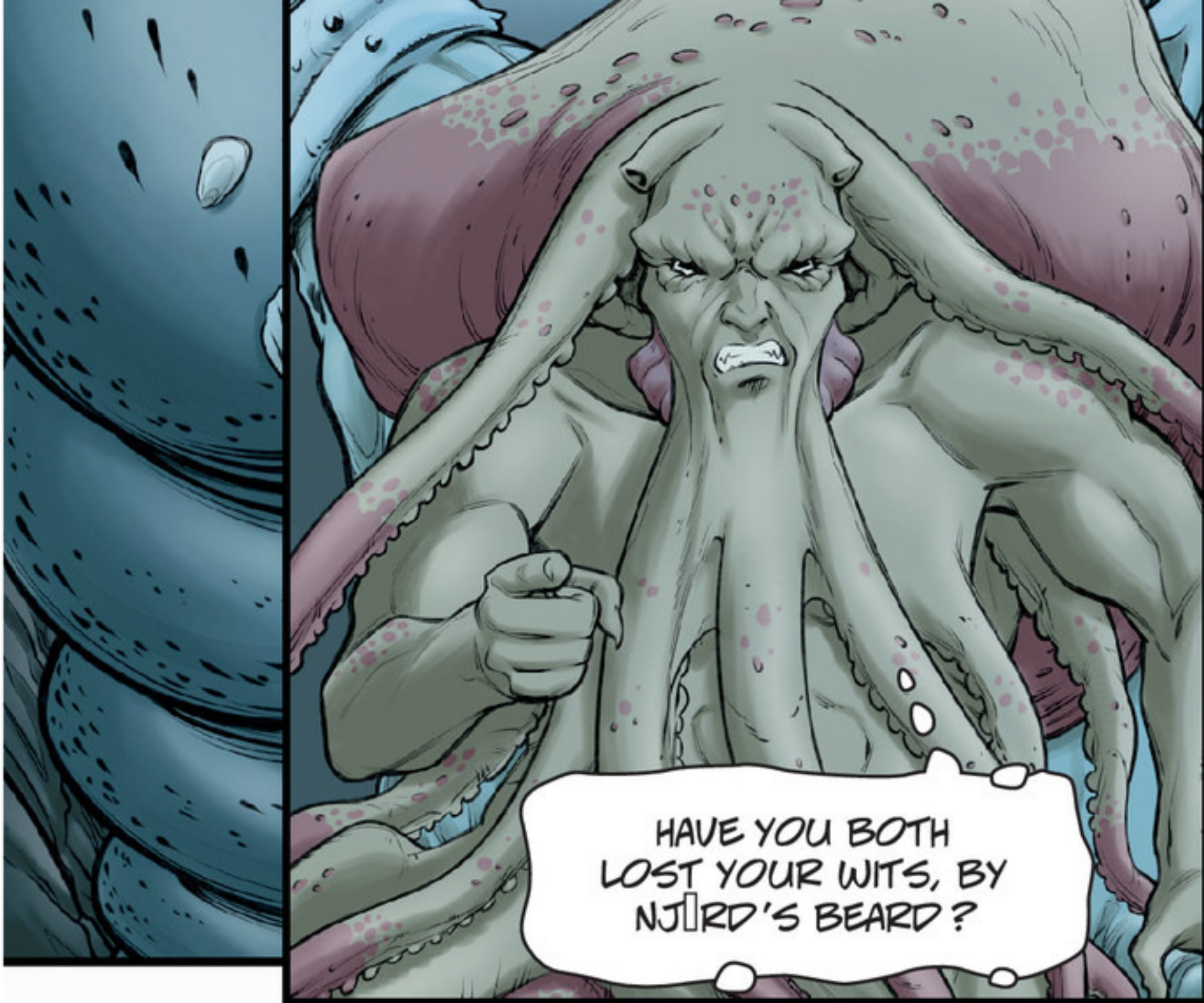
Jeg ved e slot,
dets væg og tag...



er grønne bølger lag på lag...





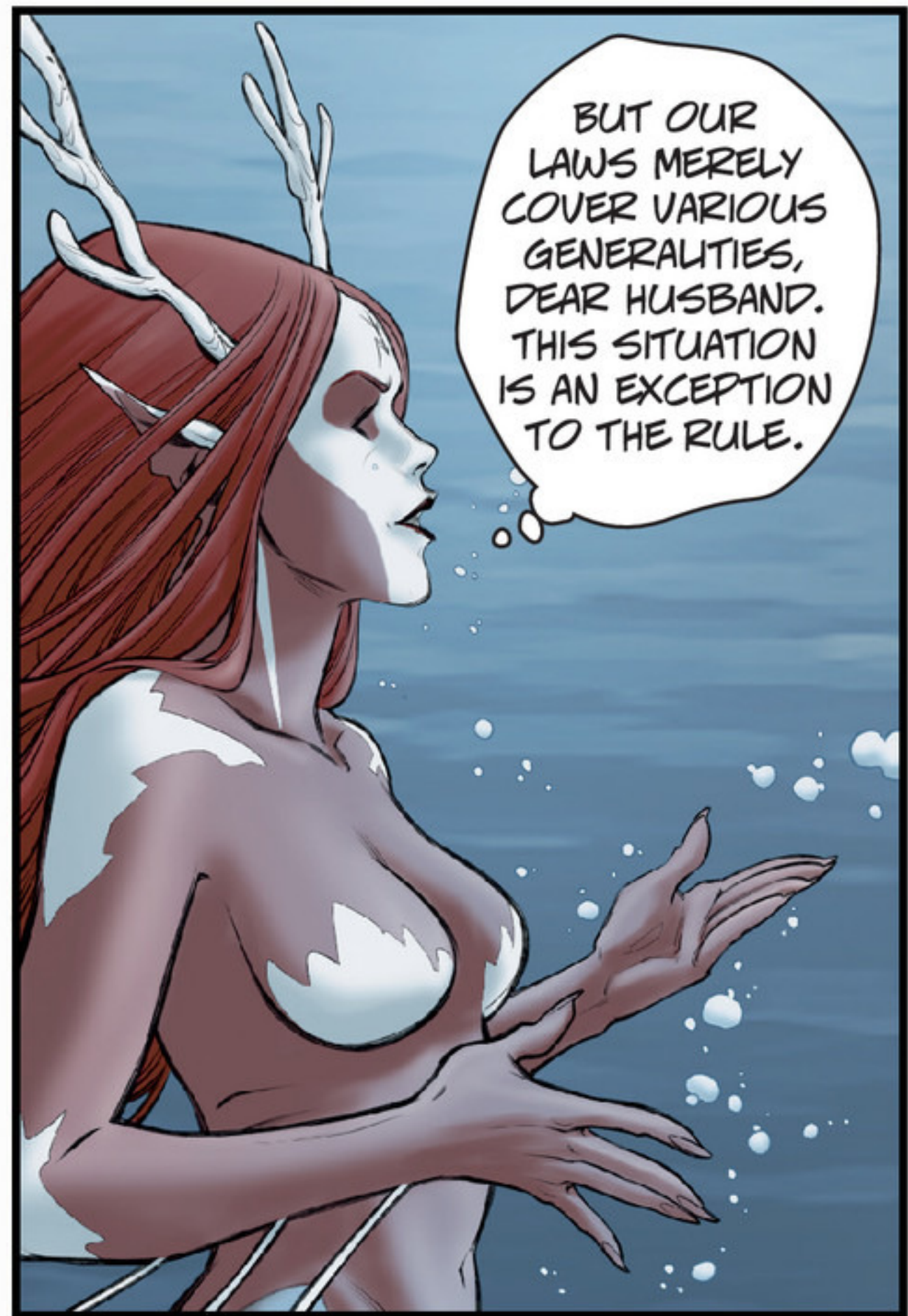


HAVE YOU BOTH
LOST YOUR WITS, BY
NJIRD'S BEARD?



OUR LAWS ARE SACRED!
YOU KNOW THAT BETTER
THAN ANYONE!

HOW DARE YOU
BREAK THEM
BEHIND MY BACK?!



BUT OUR
LAWS MERELY
COVER VARIOUS
GENERALITIES,
DEAR HUSBAND.
THIS SITUATION
IS AN EXCEPTION
TO THE RULE.



SEE FOR
YOURSELF...



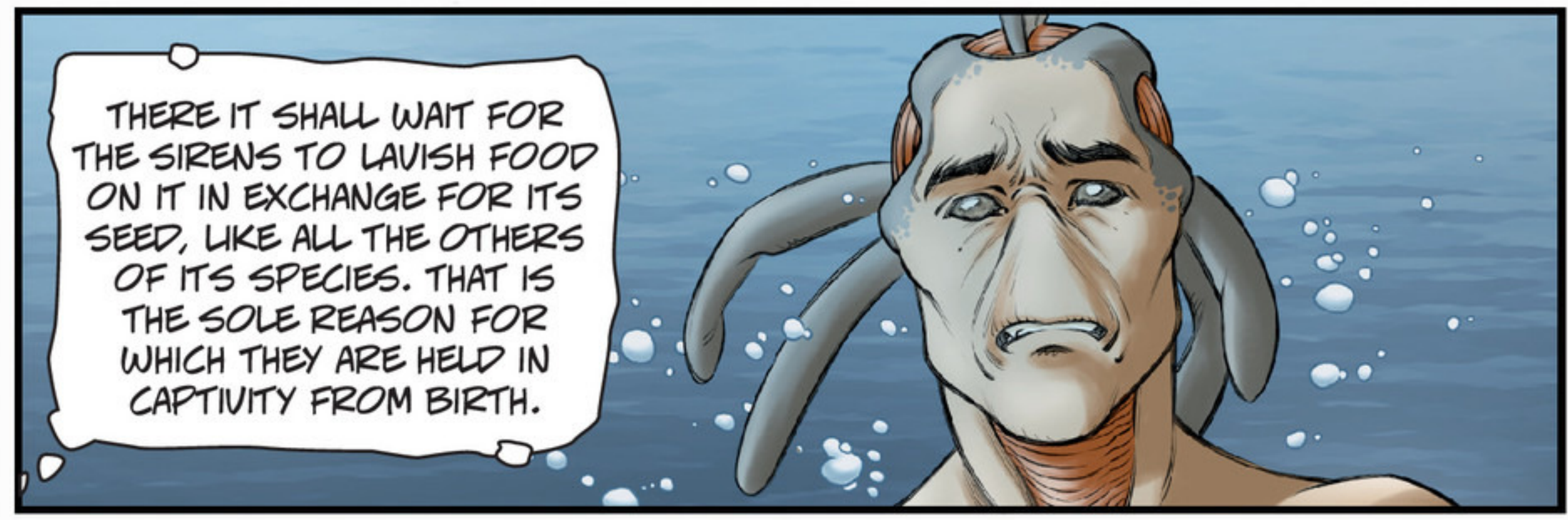
I CARE NOTHING FOR
YOUR OMENS, WITCH!

NO PROPHECY MENTIONS A
NEWT DEVELOPING ANY KIND
OF MAGICAL POWERS. YOU'LL
HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT
TO JUSTIFY DISOBEYING
THE SACRED LAWS!

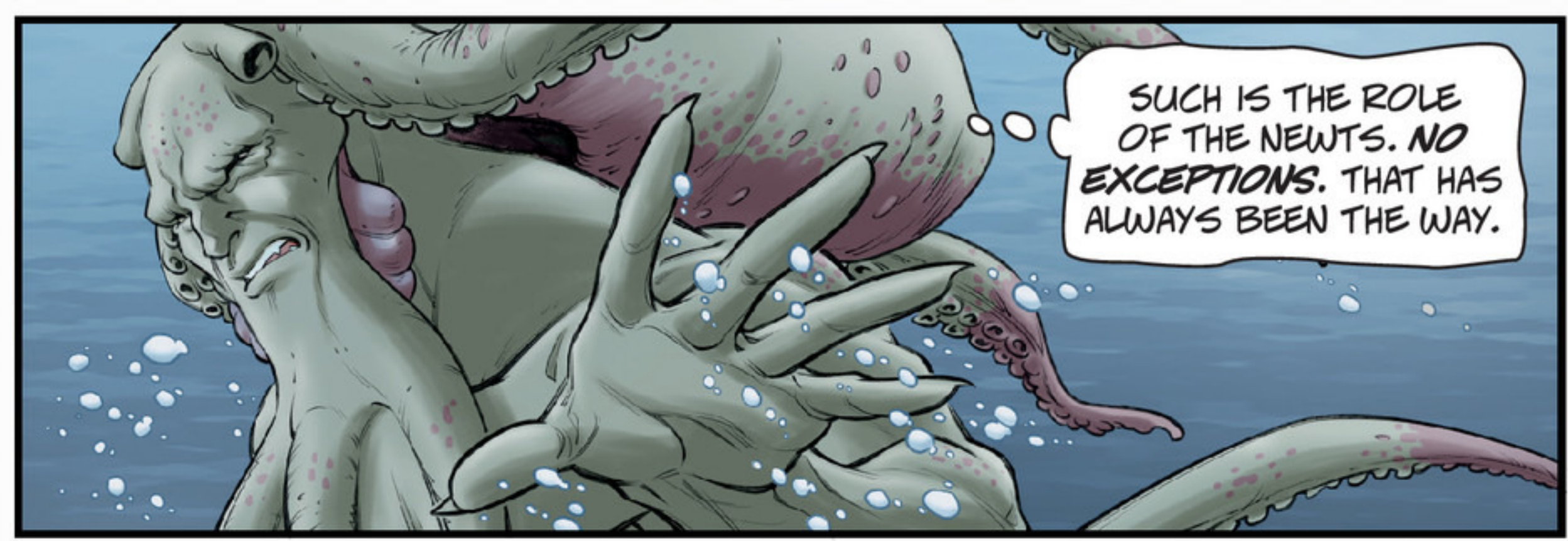


BUT I SHALL SHOW CLEMENCY. I ORDER
THE NEWT TO BE RETURNED TO THE
CAVE AND ITS KIND. IMMEDIATELY!

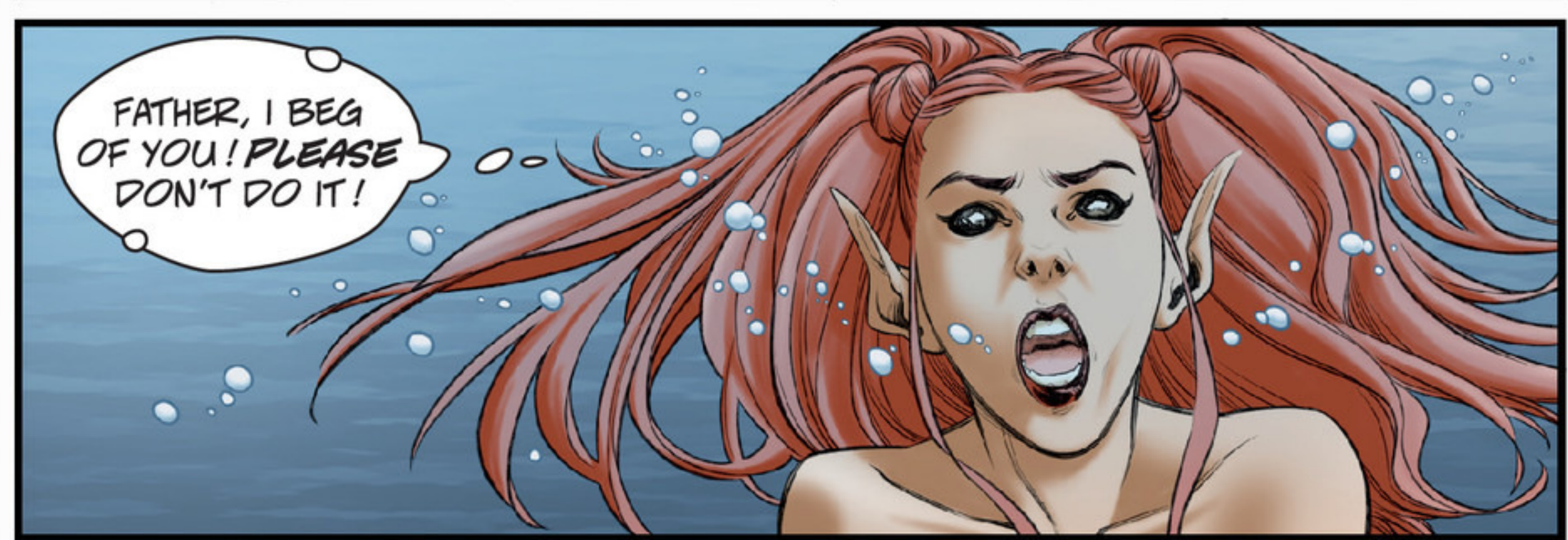
N-NO!



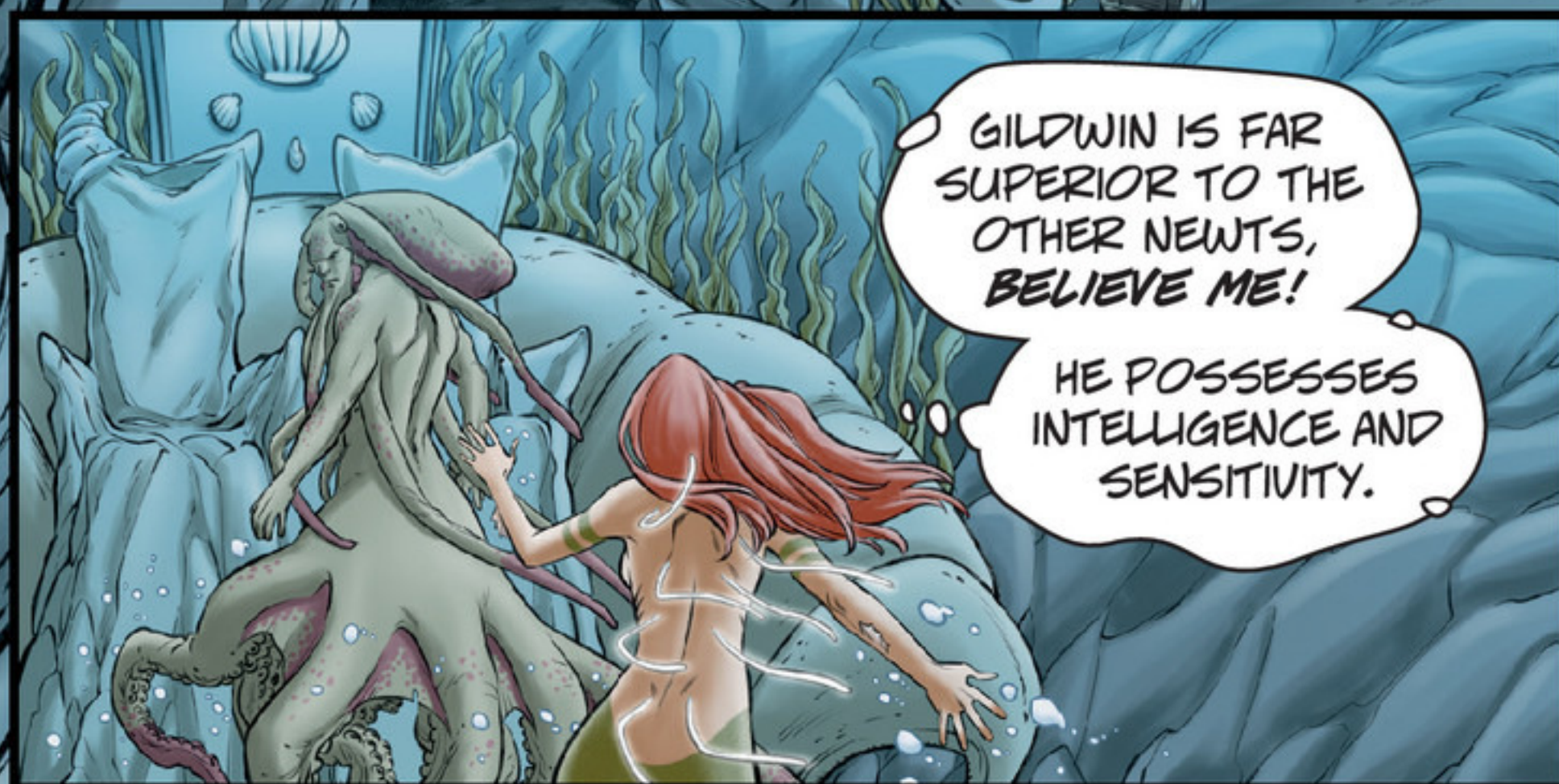
THERE IT SHALL WAIT FOR
THE SIRENS TO LAVISH FOOD
ON IT IN EXCHANGE FOR ITS
SEED, LIKE ALL THE OTHERS
OF ITS SPECIES. THAT IS
THE SOLE REASON FOR
WHICH THEY ARE HELD IN
CAPTIVITY FROM BIRTH.



SUCH IS THE ROLE
OF THE NEWTS. NO
EXCEPTIONS. THAT HAS
ALWAYS BEEN THE WAY.



FATHER, I BEG
OF YOU! PLEASE
DON'T DO IT!

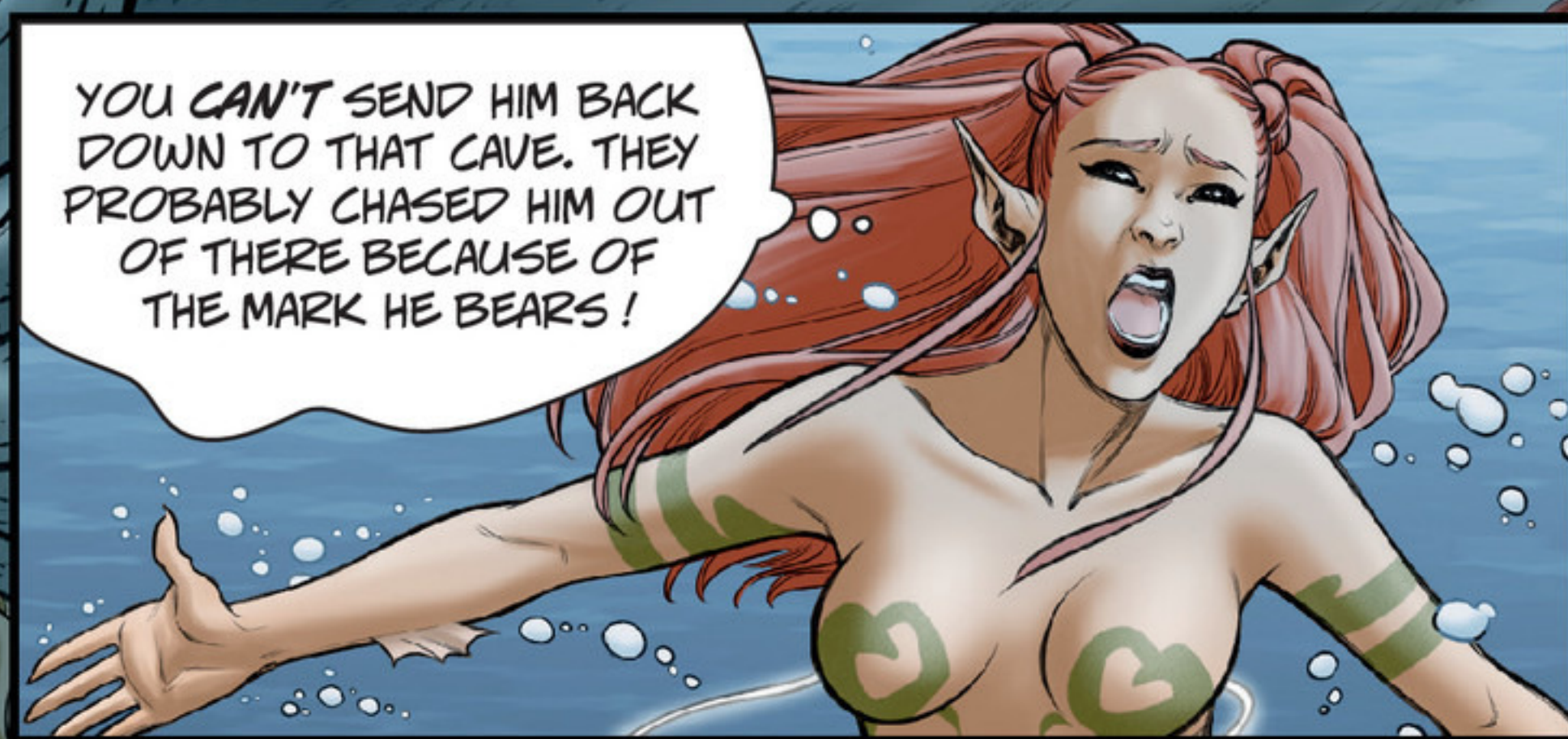


GILDWIN IS FAR SUPERIOR TO THE OTHER NEWTS, BELIEVE ME!
HE POSSESSES INTELLIGENCE AND SENSITIVITY.

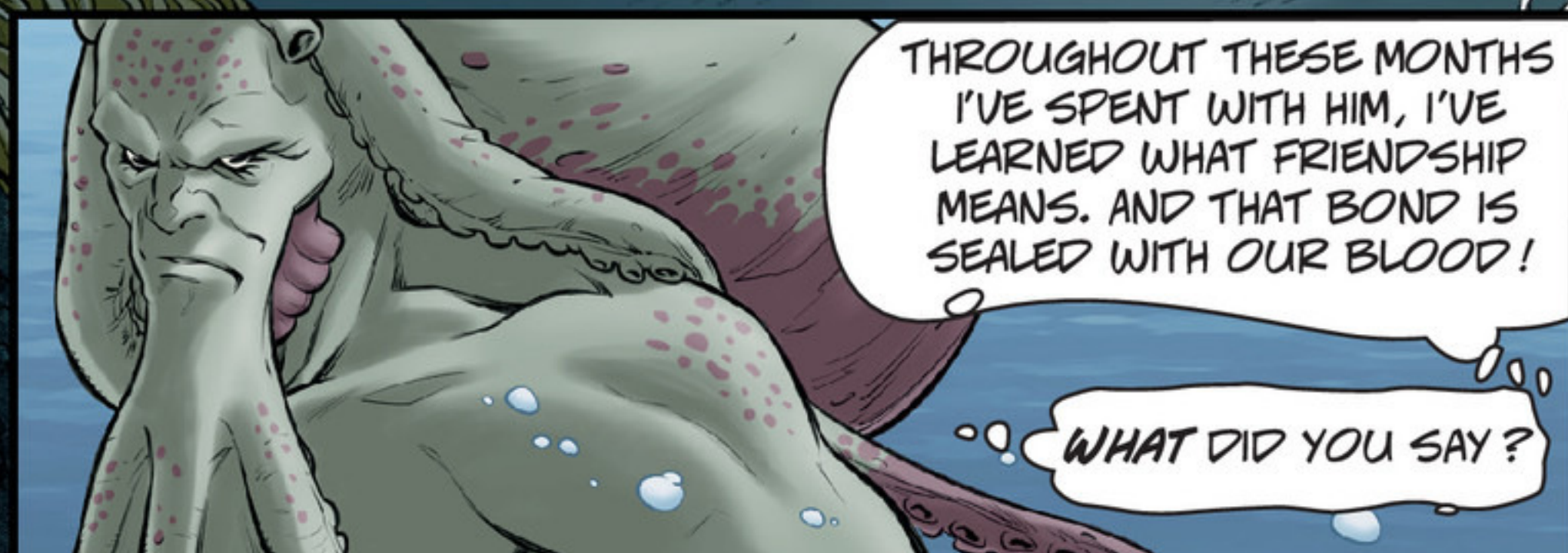


HOW DO YOU THINK HIS KIND WILL WELCOME HIM?

THEY'LL KILL HIM!

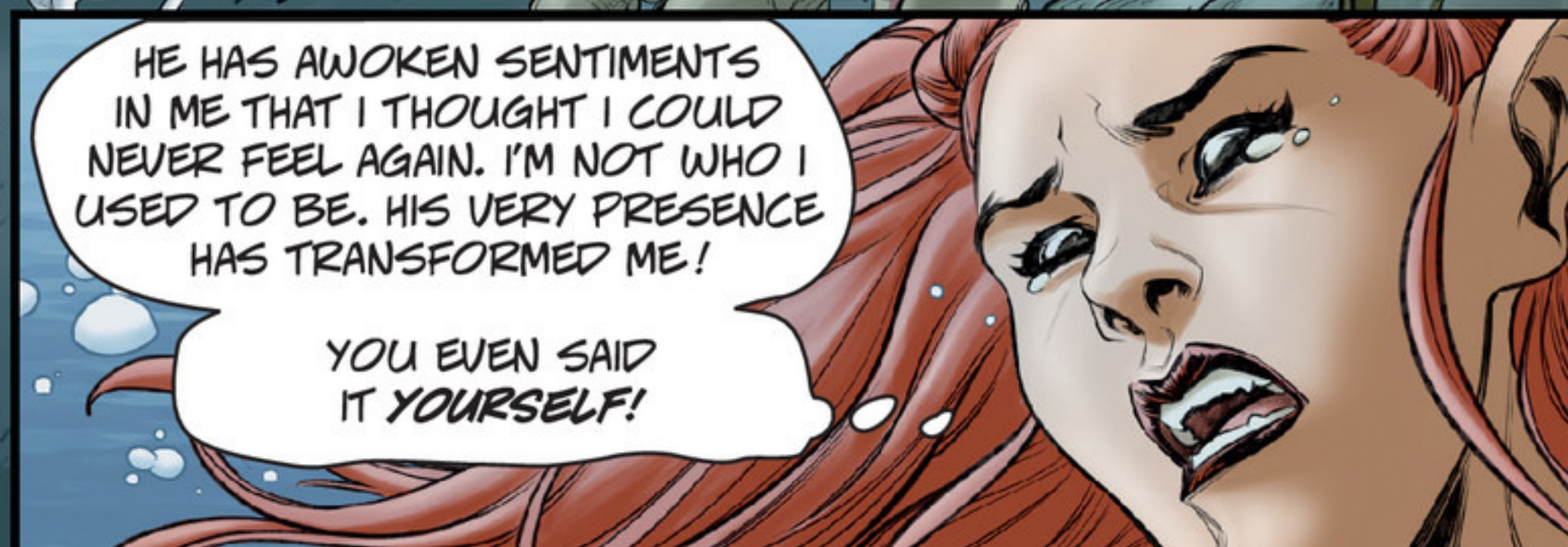


YOU *CAN'T* SEND HIM BACK DOWN TO THAT CAVE. THEY PROBABLY CHASED HIM OUT OF THERE BECAUSE OF THE MARK HE BEARS!



THROUGHOUT THESE MONTHS I'VE SPENT WITH HIM, I'VE LEARNED WHAT FRIENDSHIP MEANS. AND THAT BOND IS SEALED WITH OUR BLOOD!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?



HE HAS AWOKEN SENTIMENTS IN ME THAT I THOUGHT I COULD NEVER FEEL AGAIN. I'M NOT WHO I USED TO BE. HIS VERY PRESENCE HAS TRANSFORMED ME!

YOU EVEN SAID IT YOURSELF!



SILENCE!

ONE MORE WORD AND I WILL SHUT YOU AWAY FOR TEN YEARS IN JORMUNGANDR'S STOMACH!

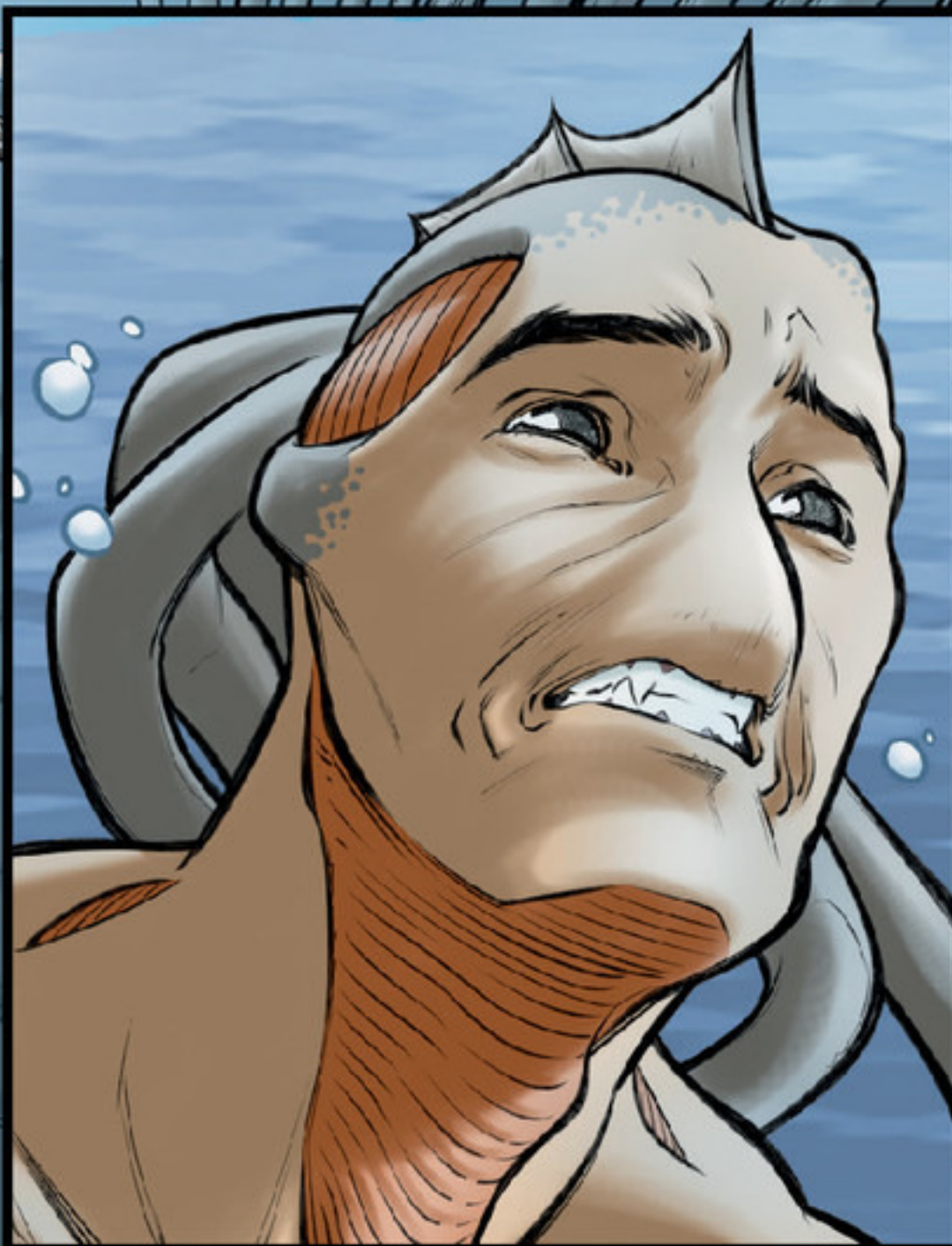
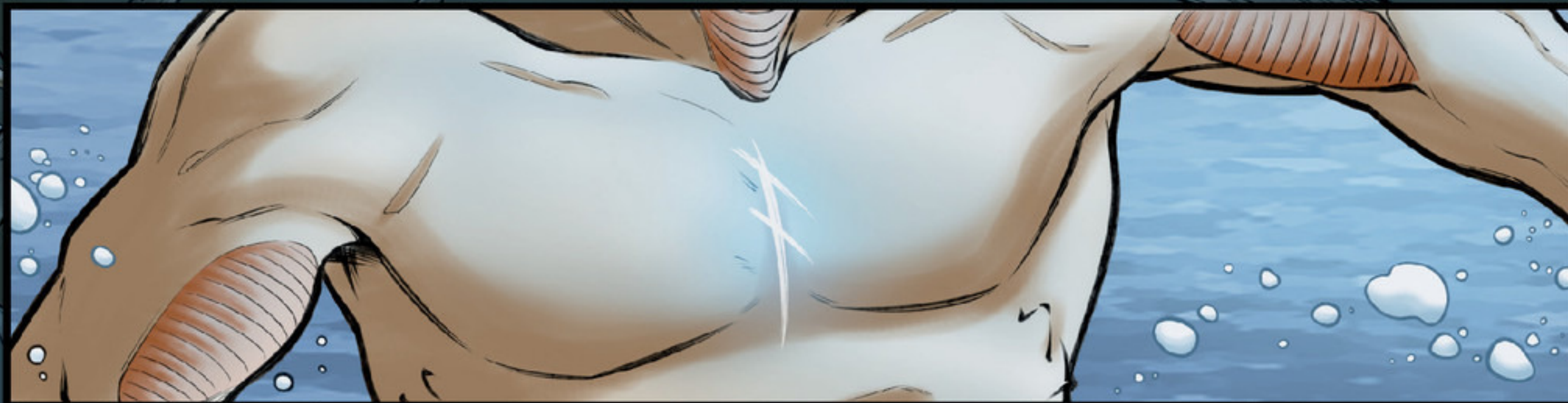


ELDIR, TAKE THIS NEWT TO THE CAVE IMMEDIATELY. AND MAKE SURE IT *STAYS* DOWN THERE FOREVER!

G-GILDWIN NEVER SEE BLODUGHADDA AGAIN?

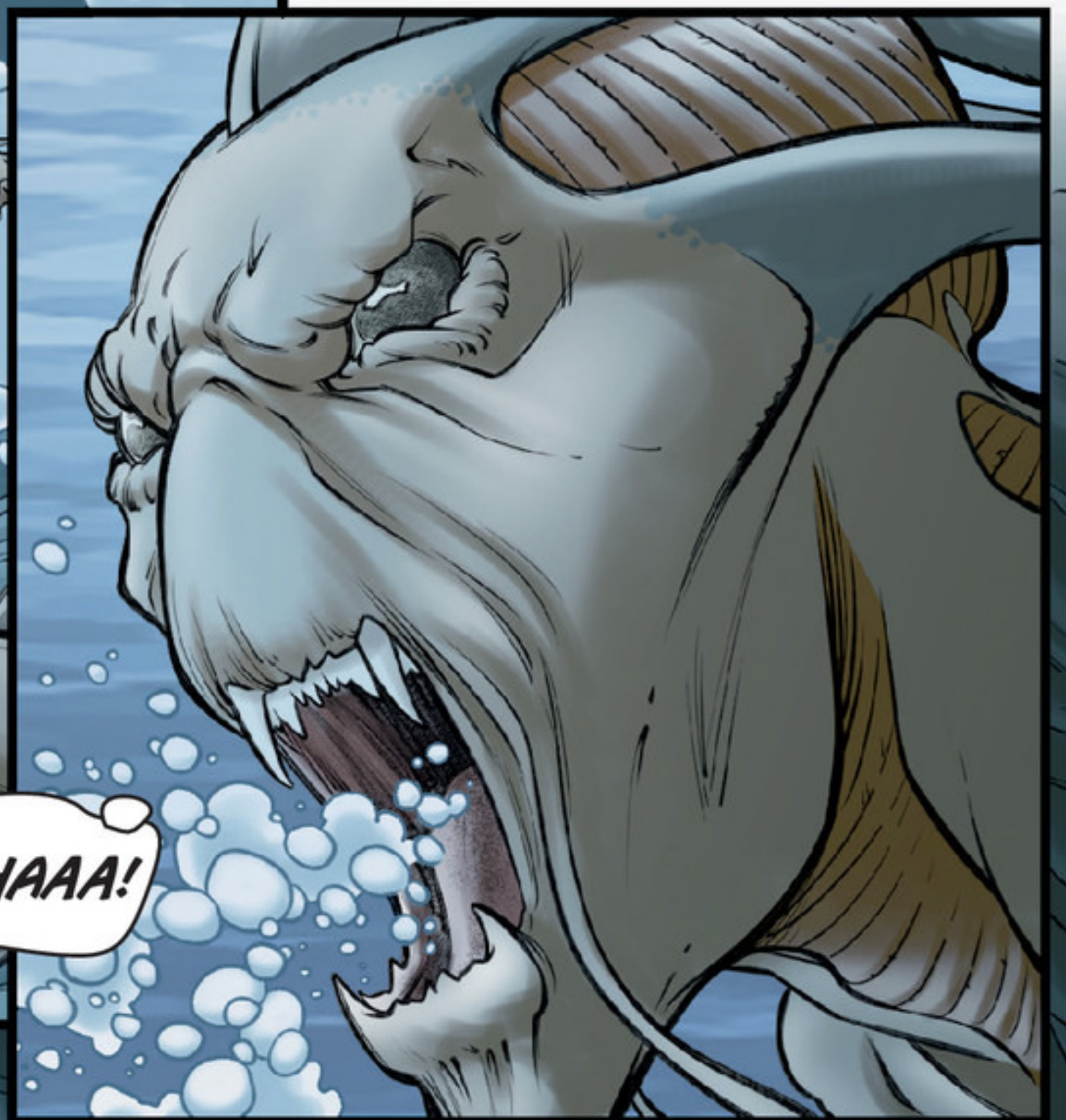
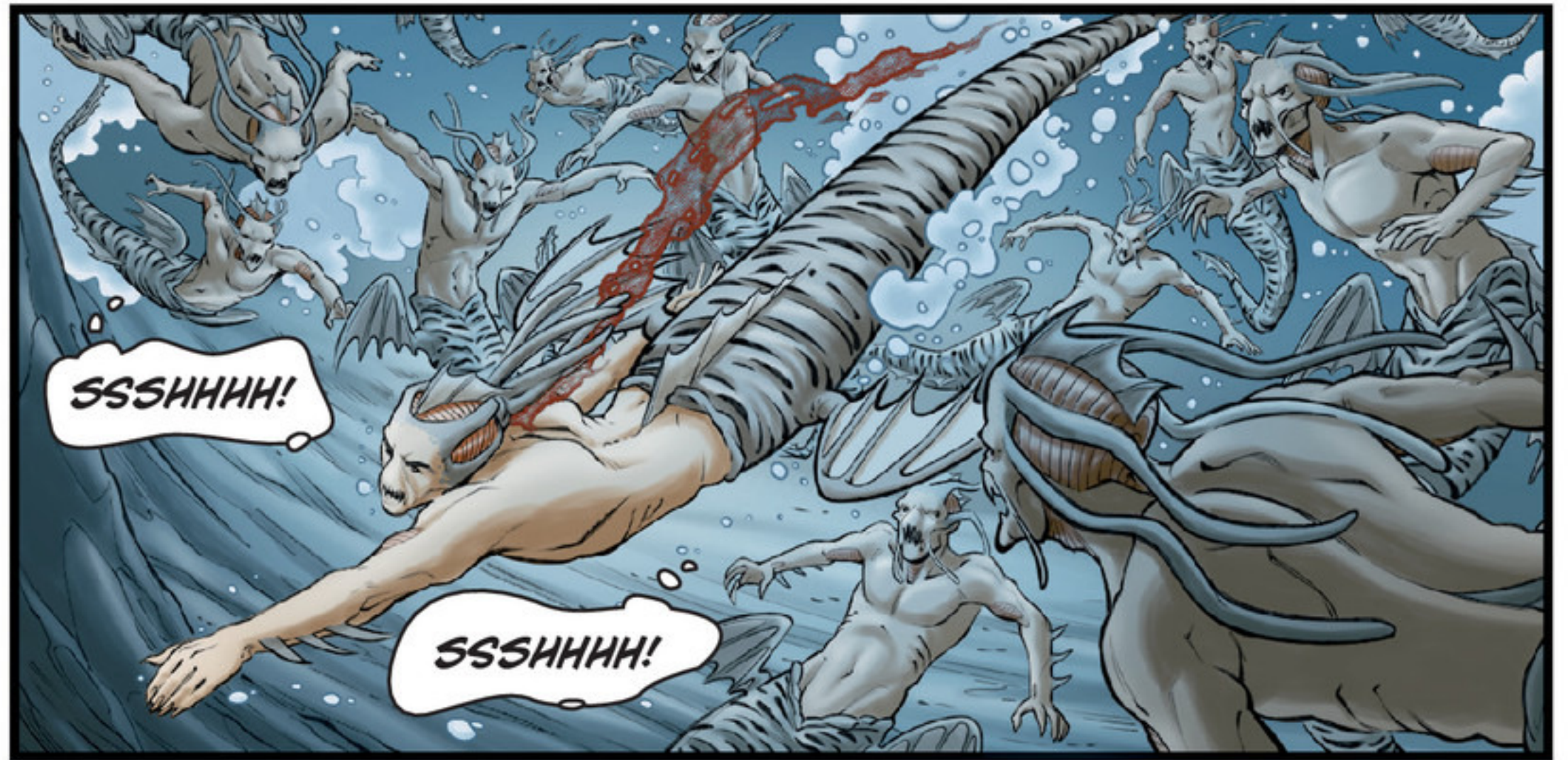
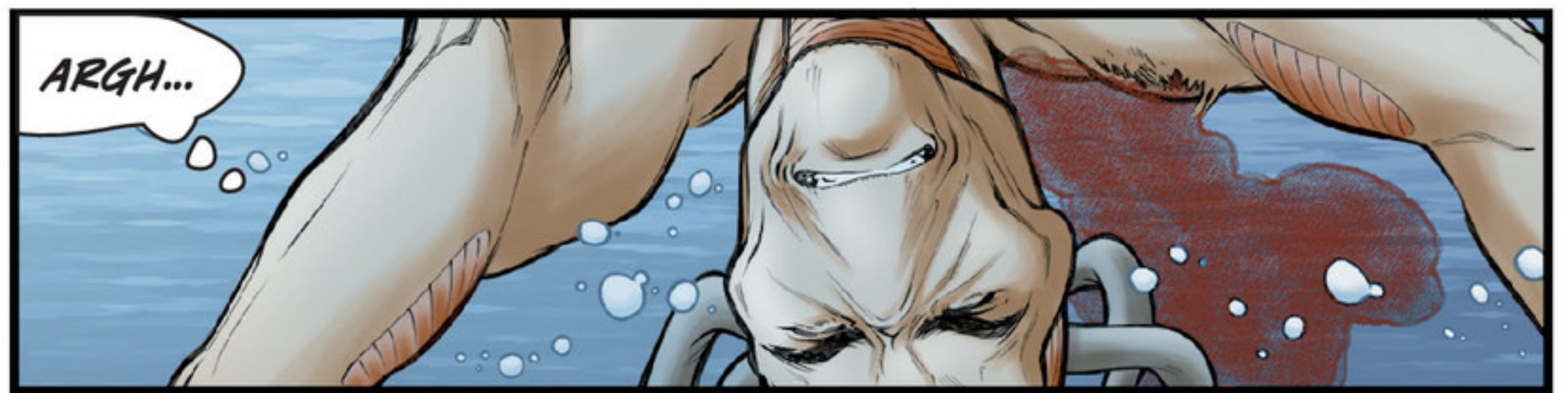
I-I'M SORRY, GILDWIN, I SWEAR I'LL NEVER ABANDON YOU! REMEMBER, WE ARE BONDED BY OUR BLOOD.



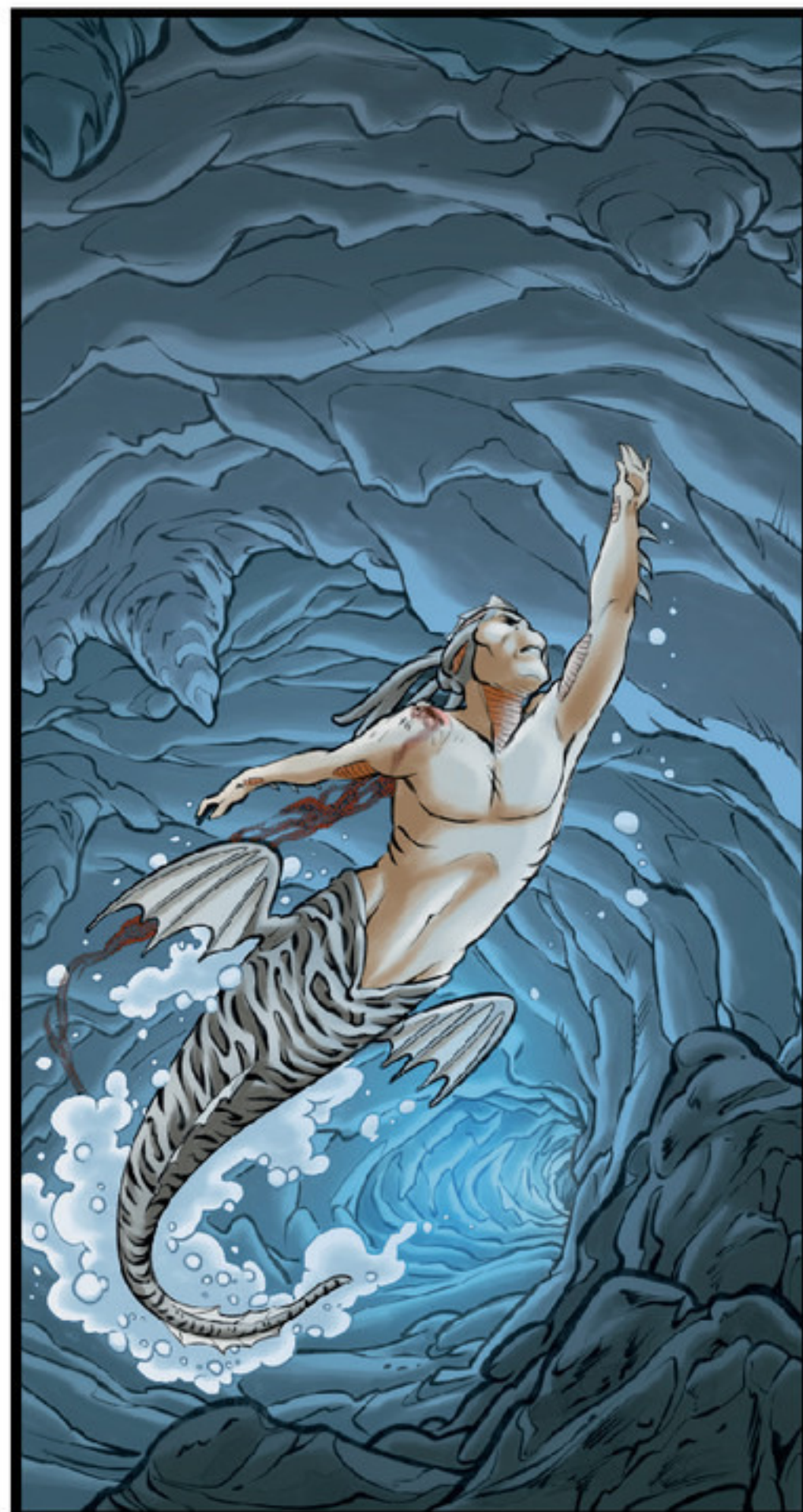




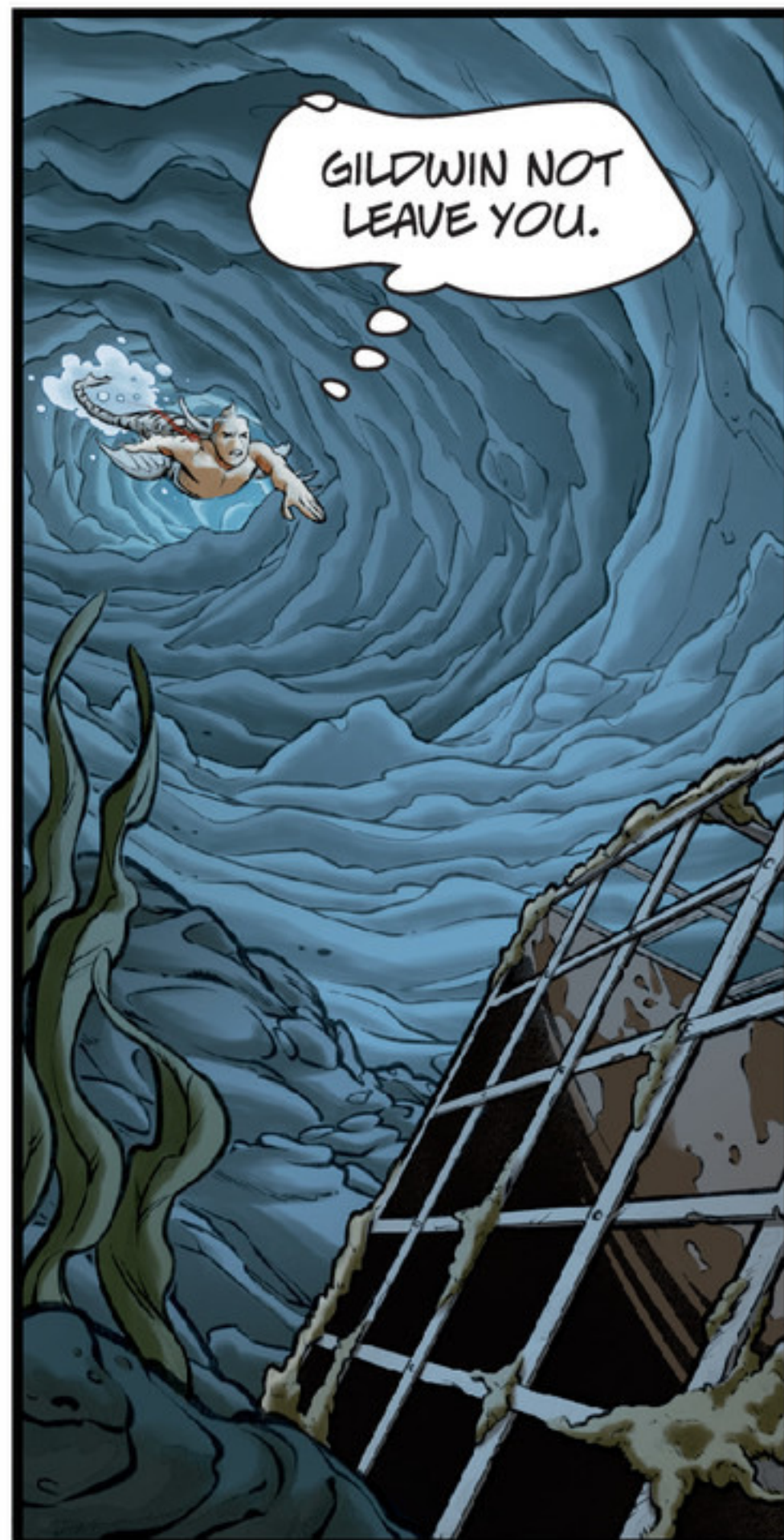
ARGH...



SSSHHHHHHHAAAA!



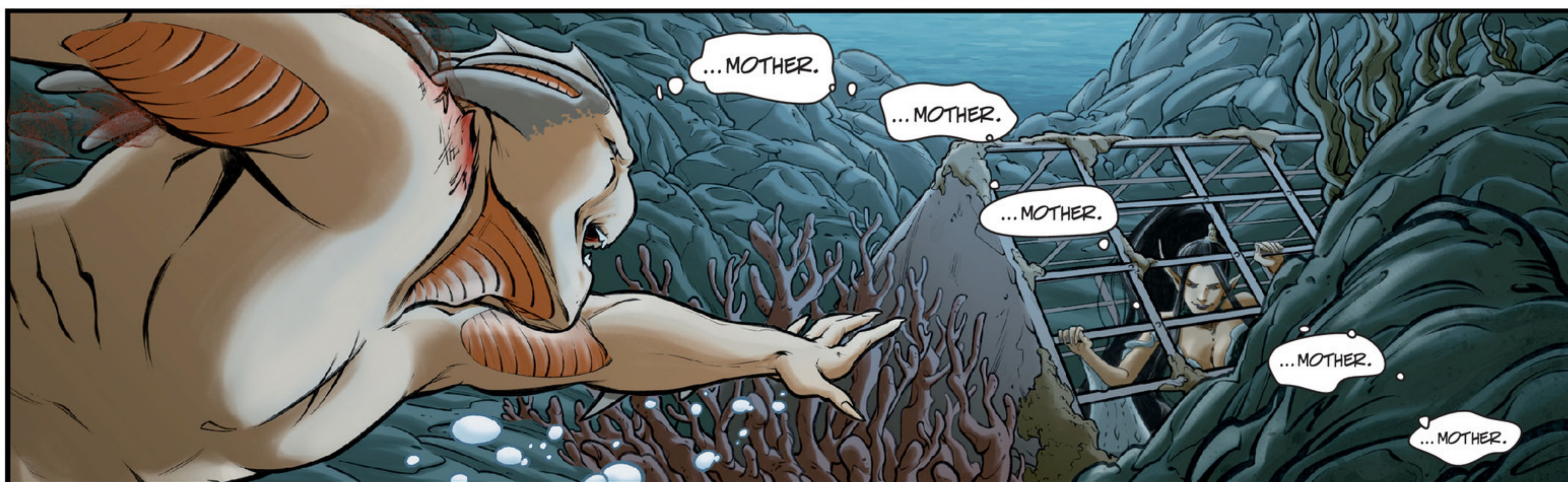
MOTHER...



GILDWIN NOT
LEAVE YOU.



YOU SOON FREE...



...MOTHER.

...MOTHER.

...MOTHER.

...MOTHER.

...MOTHER.

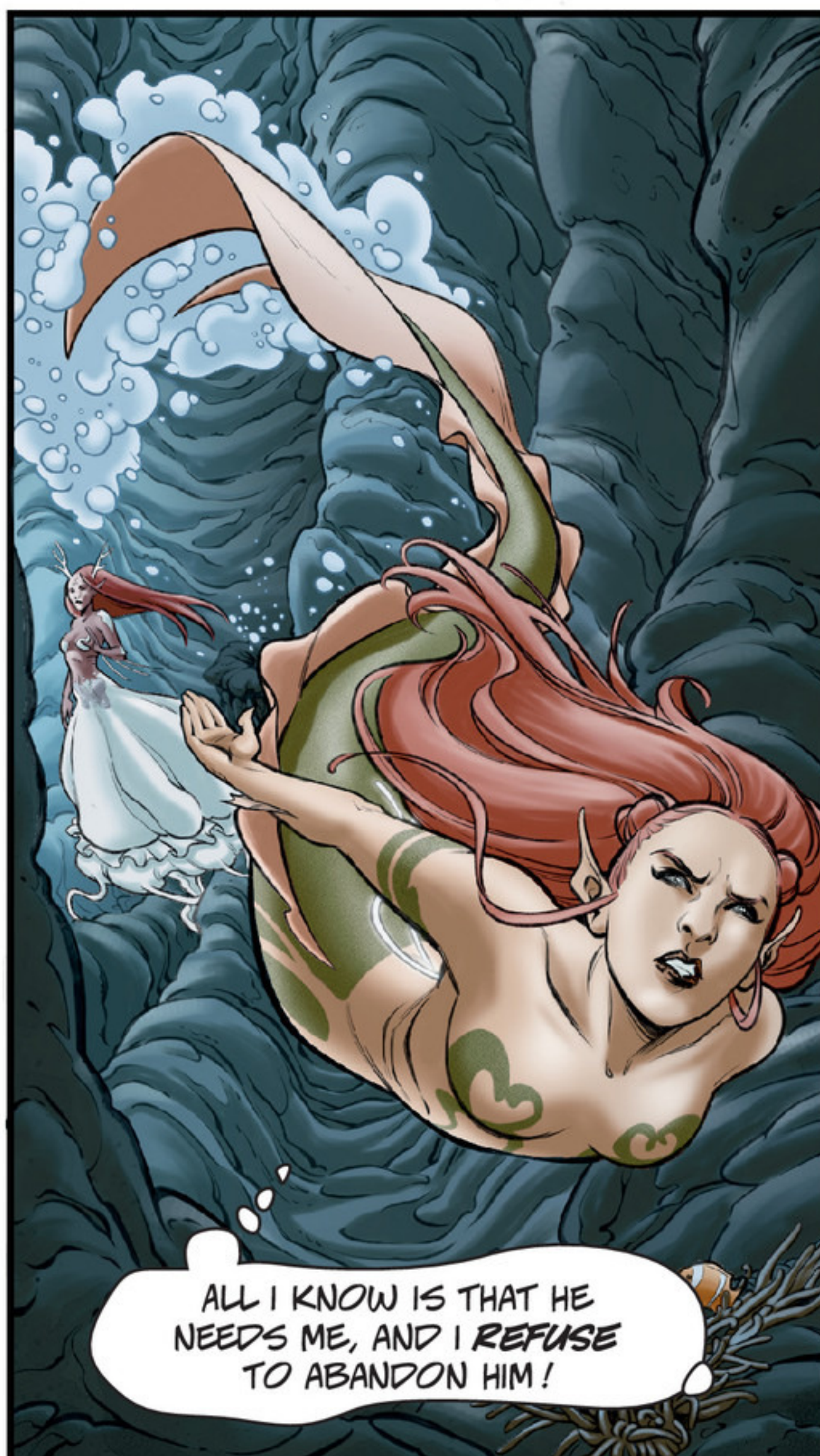


G-GILDWIN?

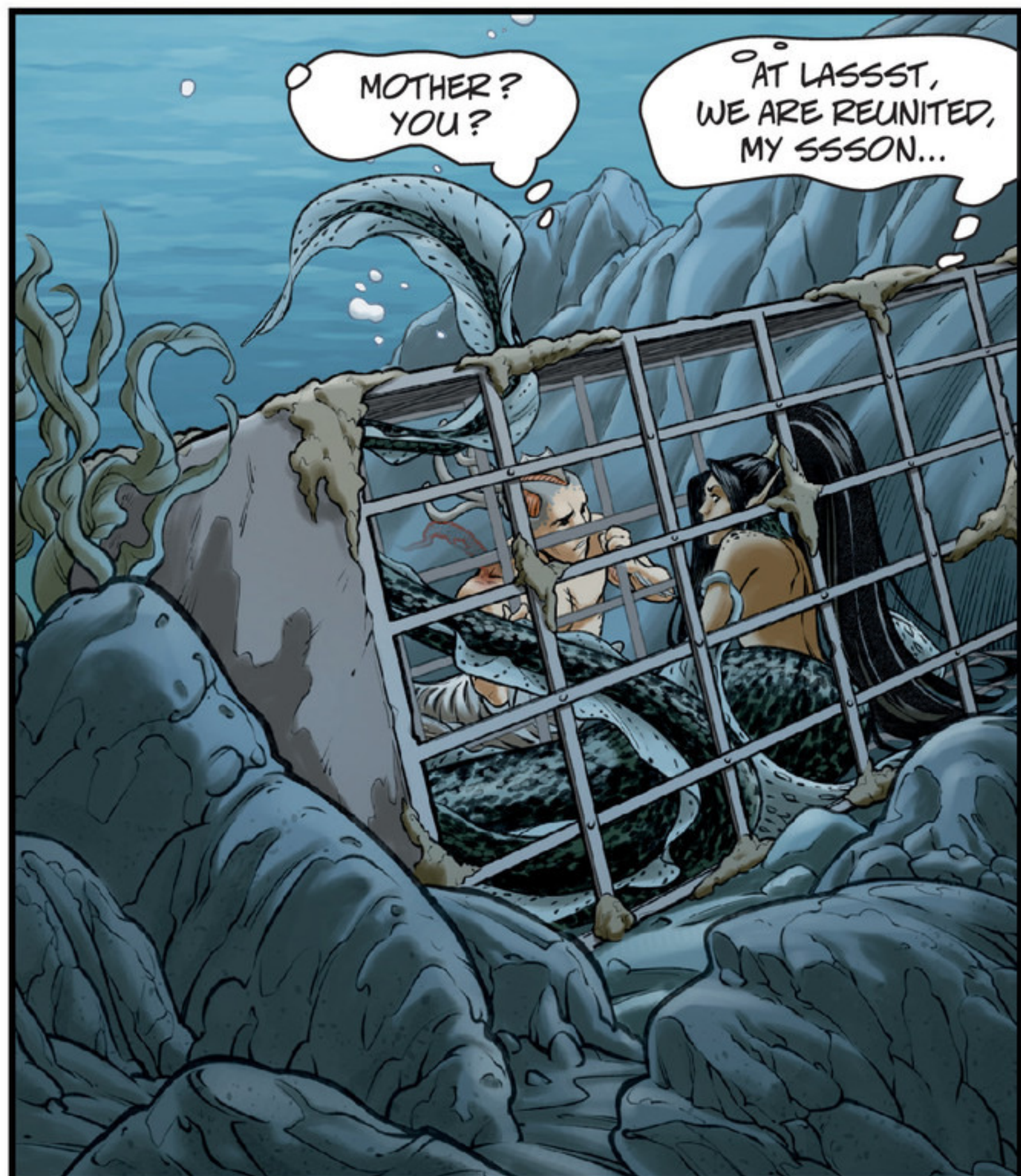


WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?

IT'S GILDWIN.
I... I CAN HEAR HIM
IN MY HEAD. EVER SINCE
HIS GIFT APPEARED, WE'VE
HAD A CONNECTION... I
CAN'T EXPLAIN IT.

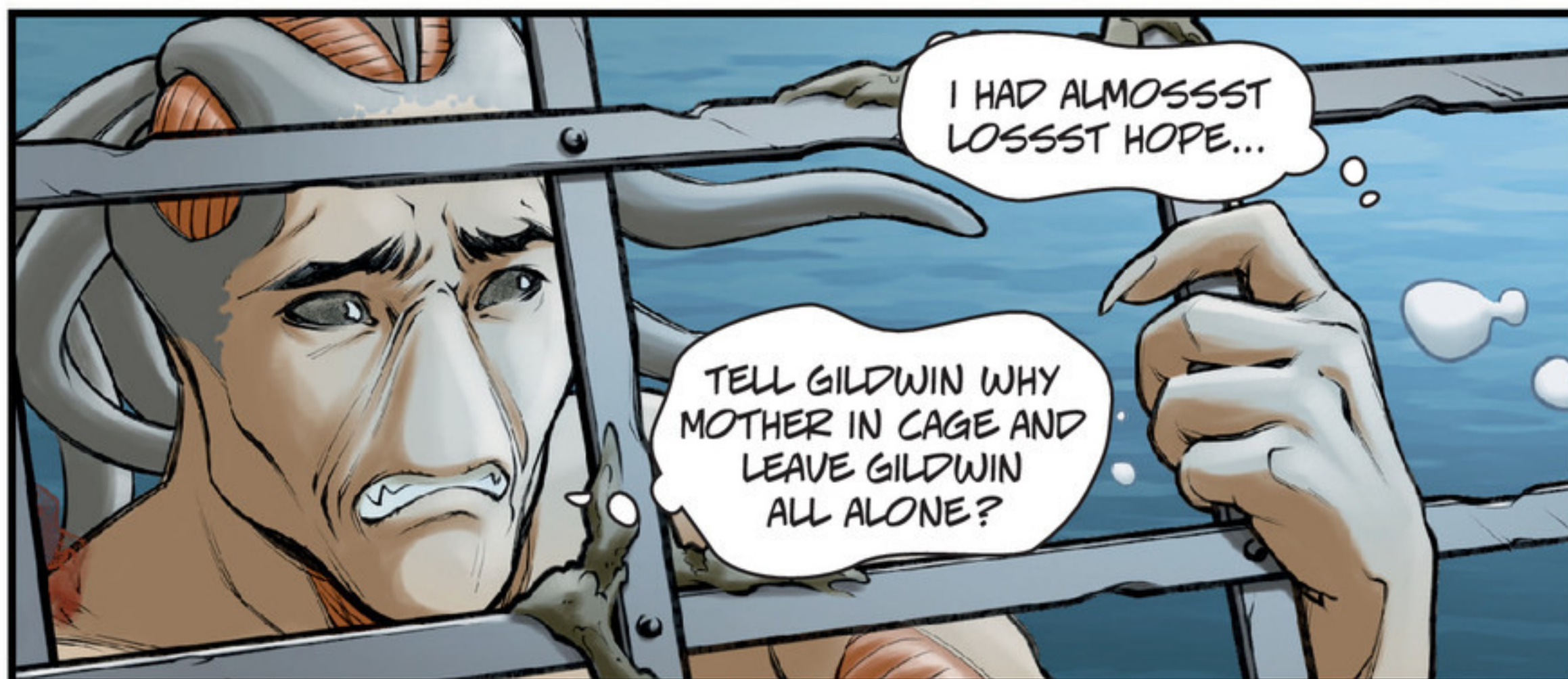


ALL I KNOW IS THAT HE
NEEDS ME, AND I **REFUSE**
TO ABANDON HIM!



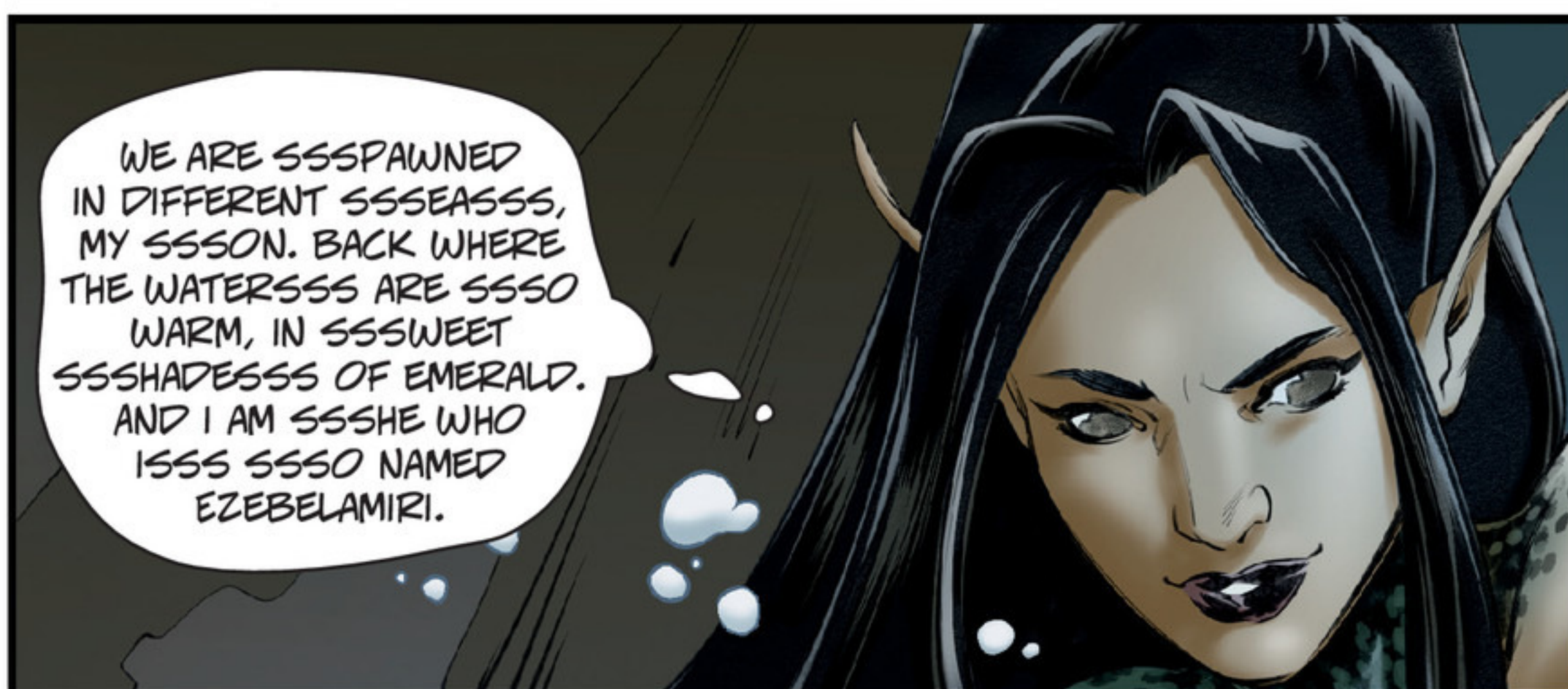
MOTHER?
YOU?

AT LAST,
WE ARE REUNITED,
MY SON...



I HAD ALMOST
LOST HOPE...

TELL GILDWIN WHY
MOTHER IN CAGE AND
LEAVE GILDWIN
ALL ALONE?



WE ARE SPAWNED
IN DIFFERENT PLACES,
MY SON. BACK WHERE
THE WATERS ARE SO
WARM, IN THE SWEET
SHADES OF EMERALD.
AND I AM SHE WHO
IS NAMED
EZELEMI.



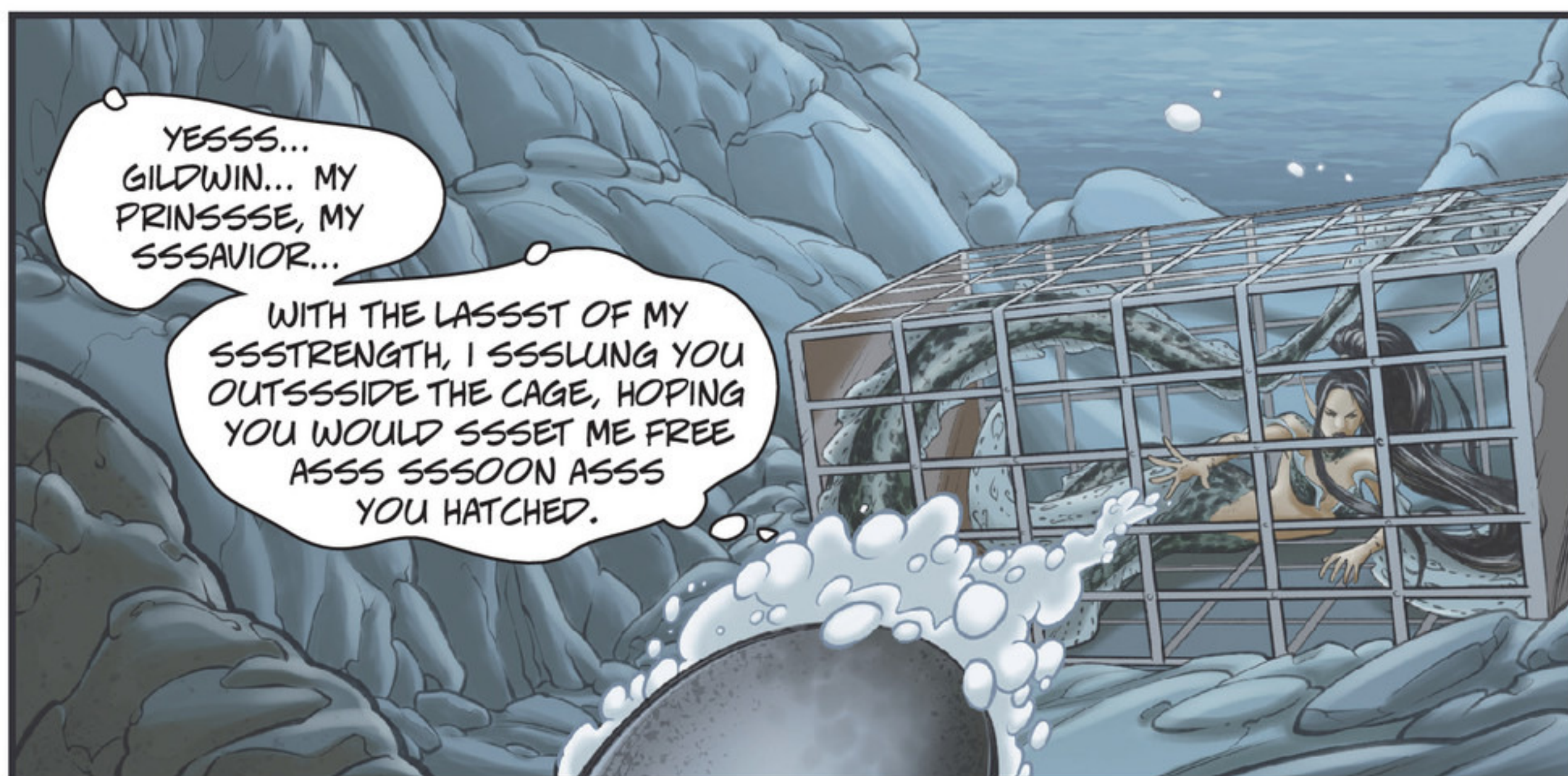
THE NORSE
MEN CAUGHT ME AND
THREW ME IN THESE
WATERS THAT WILL
FINISH ME OFF!

NORSE MEN CRUEL.
GILDWIN KNOW...



IT'S TRUE. BUT BEFORE I WAS
LEFT TO PERISH IN THIS ABYSS,
I MATED WITH ONE OF THE
SAILORS AND GAVE BIRTH TO A SINGLE EGG.

G-GILDWIN?



YES...
GILDWIN... MY
PRINCE, MY
SAVOR...

WITH THE LAST OF MY
STRENGTH, I SLUNG YOU
OUTSIDE THE CAGE, HOPING
YOU WOULD SET ME FREE
AS SOON AS
YOU HATCHED.



BUT FIRST I MARKED YOU
WITH A RUNE I HAD SEEN ON
THE NORSEMAN'S BODY,
SO THE NORTHERN SIRENS
WOULD ACCEPT YOU. BUT
IT WAS A MISTAKE.

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CALL YOU TO ME, USSING WHAT SSSTRENGTH I HAD LEFT.

I THOUGHT I WOULD DIE IN THISSS PRISSON WITHOUT EVER SSSEEING YOU IN THE FLESSH.

AND NOW, PLEASSSE, MY SSSON, YOU MUSSST SSSET ME FREE...

YES. SET FREE. HOW?

MAYBE GILDWIN BREAK LOCK WITH ROCK?

GILDWIN! STOP!

BLODUGHADDA COME AFTER GILDWIN?

YES, GILDWIN. YOU AND I ARE BONDED BY OUR BLOOD, REMEMBER?

IF THIS CREATURE REALLY IS YOUR MOTHER, THEN PLEASE **DON'T** LET HER OUT.

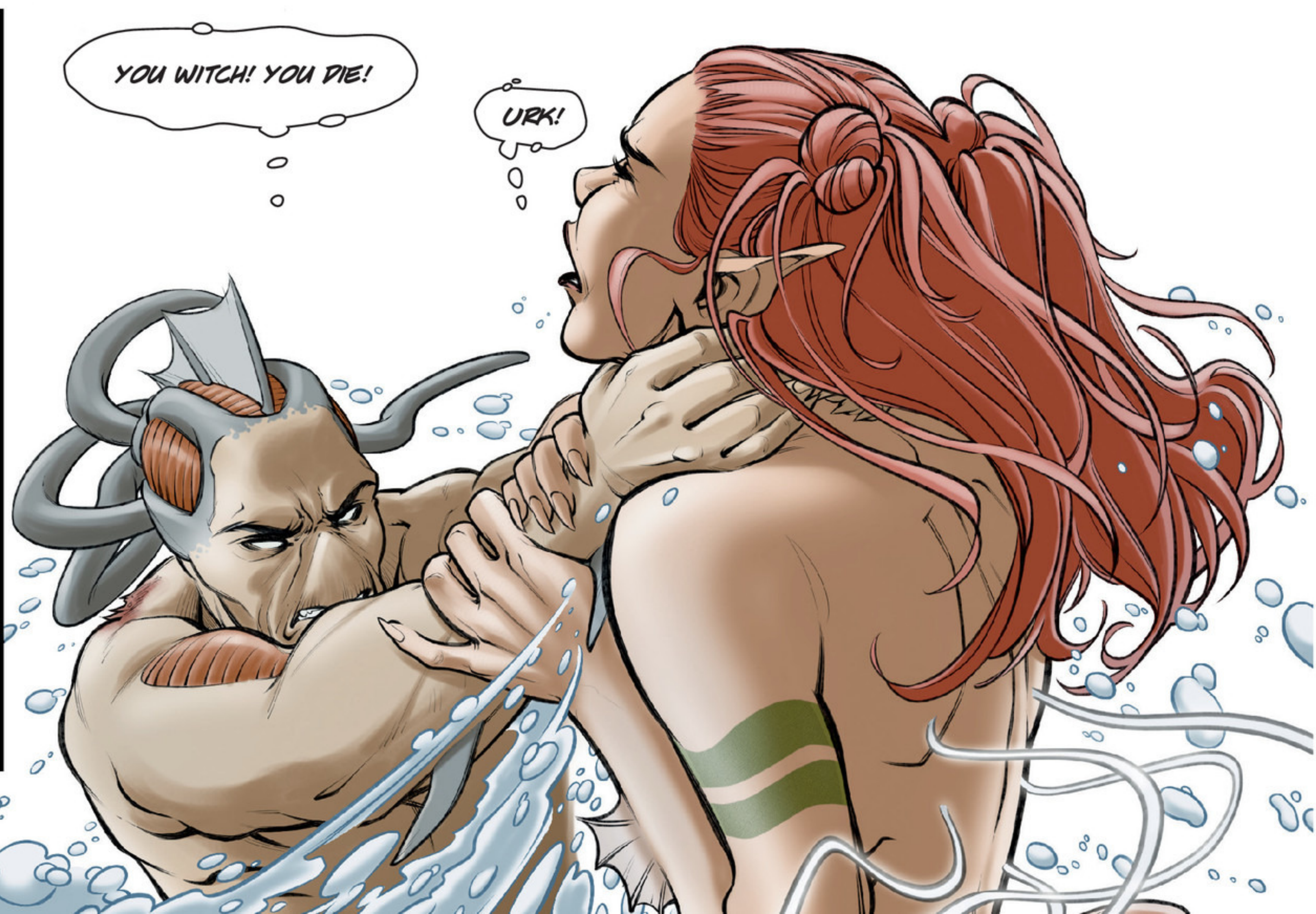
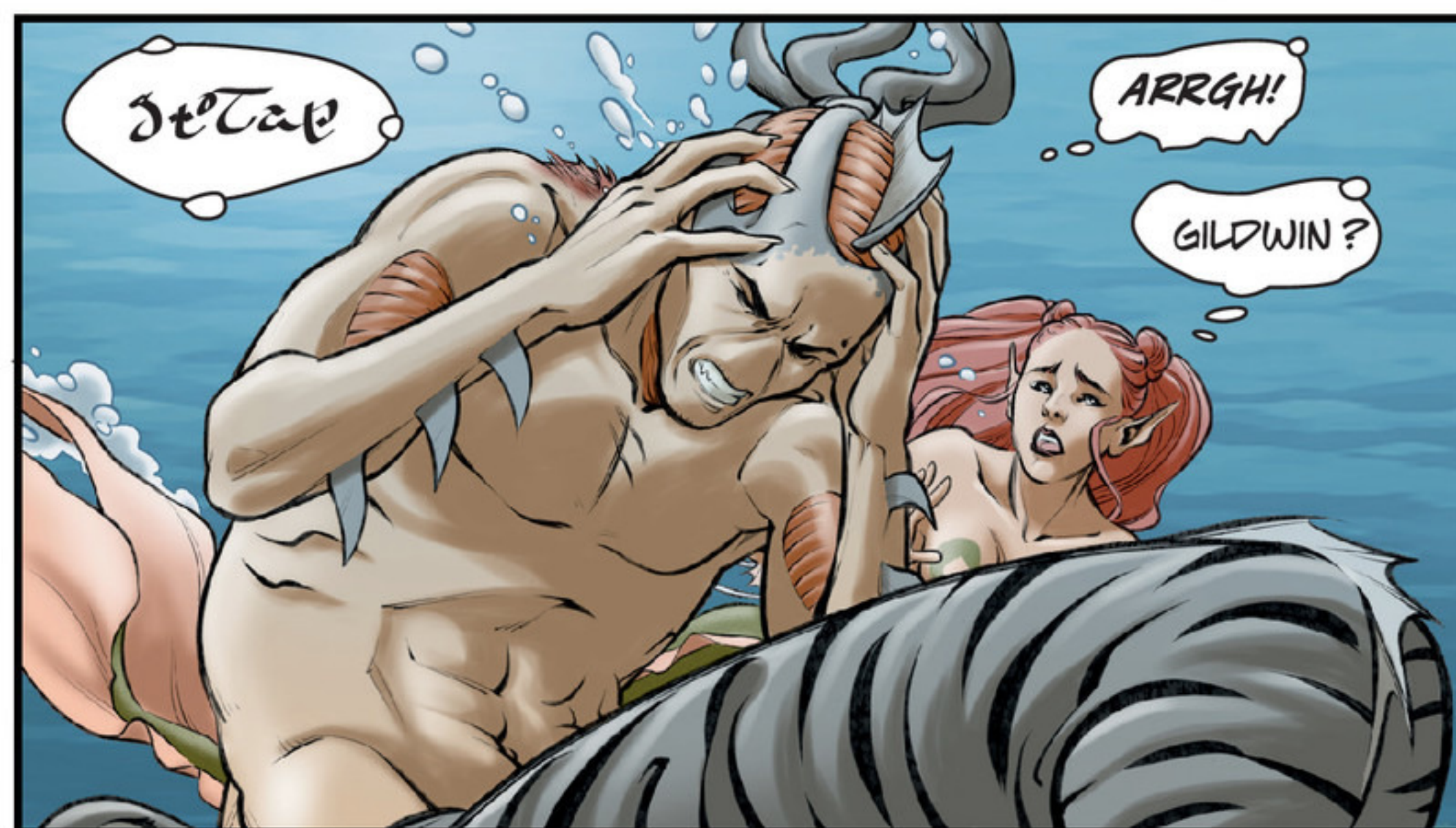
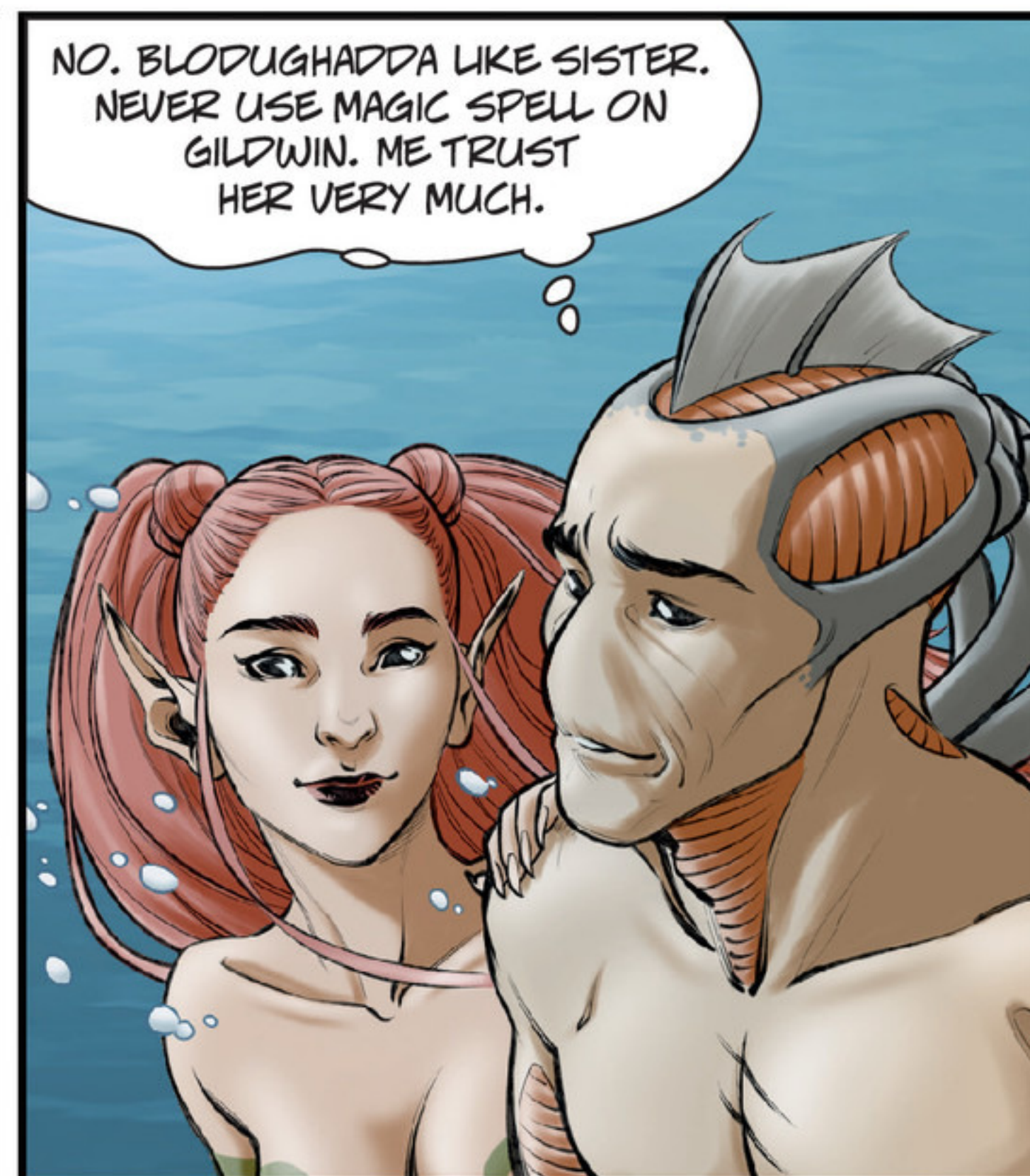
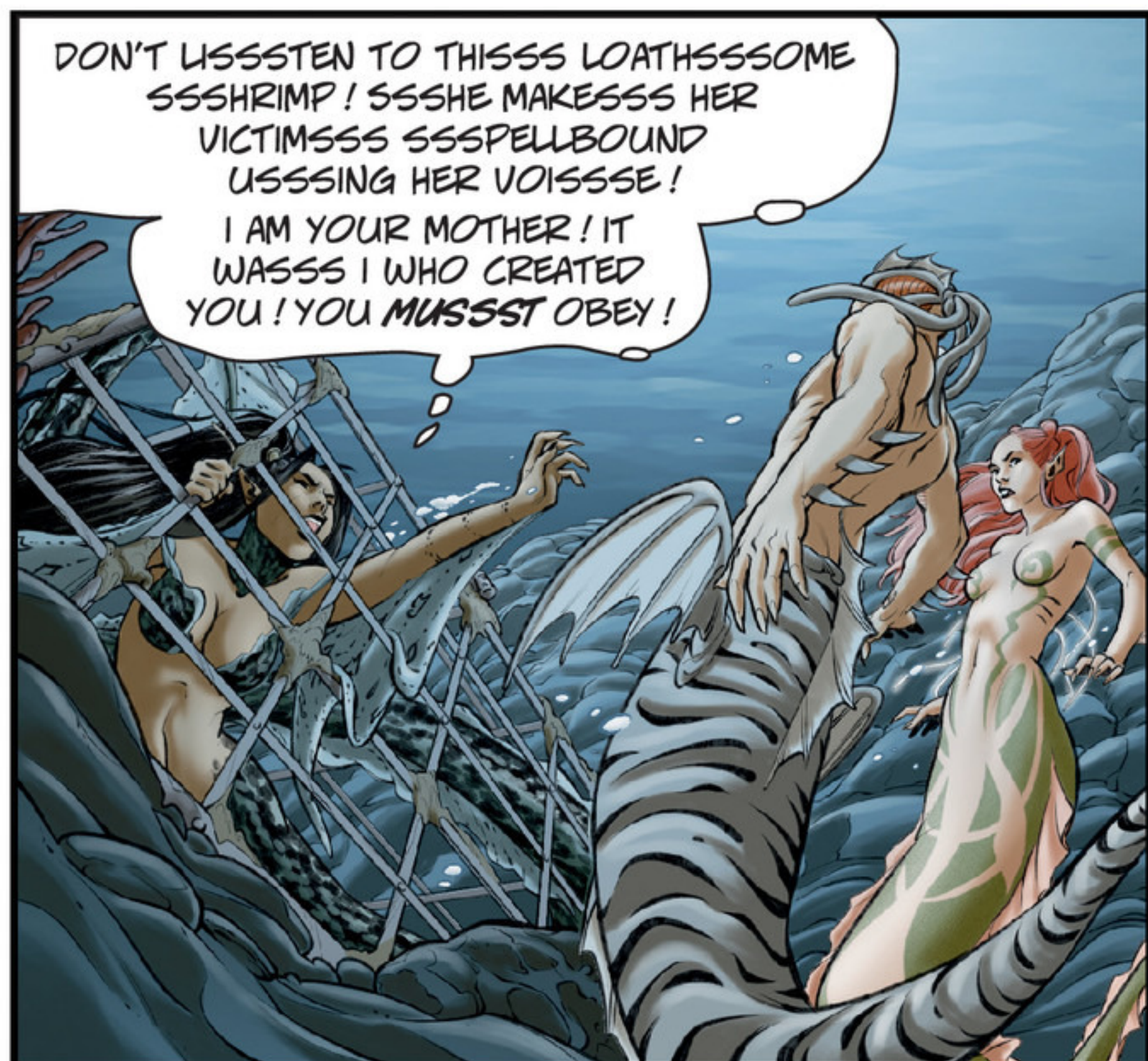
BUT... WHY?

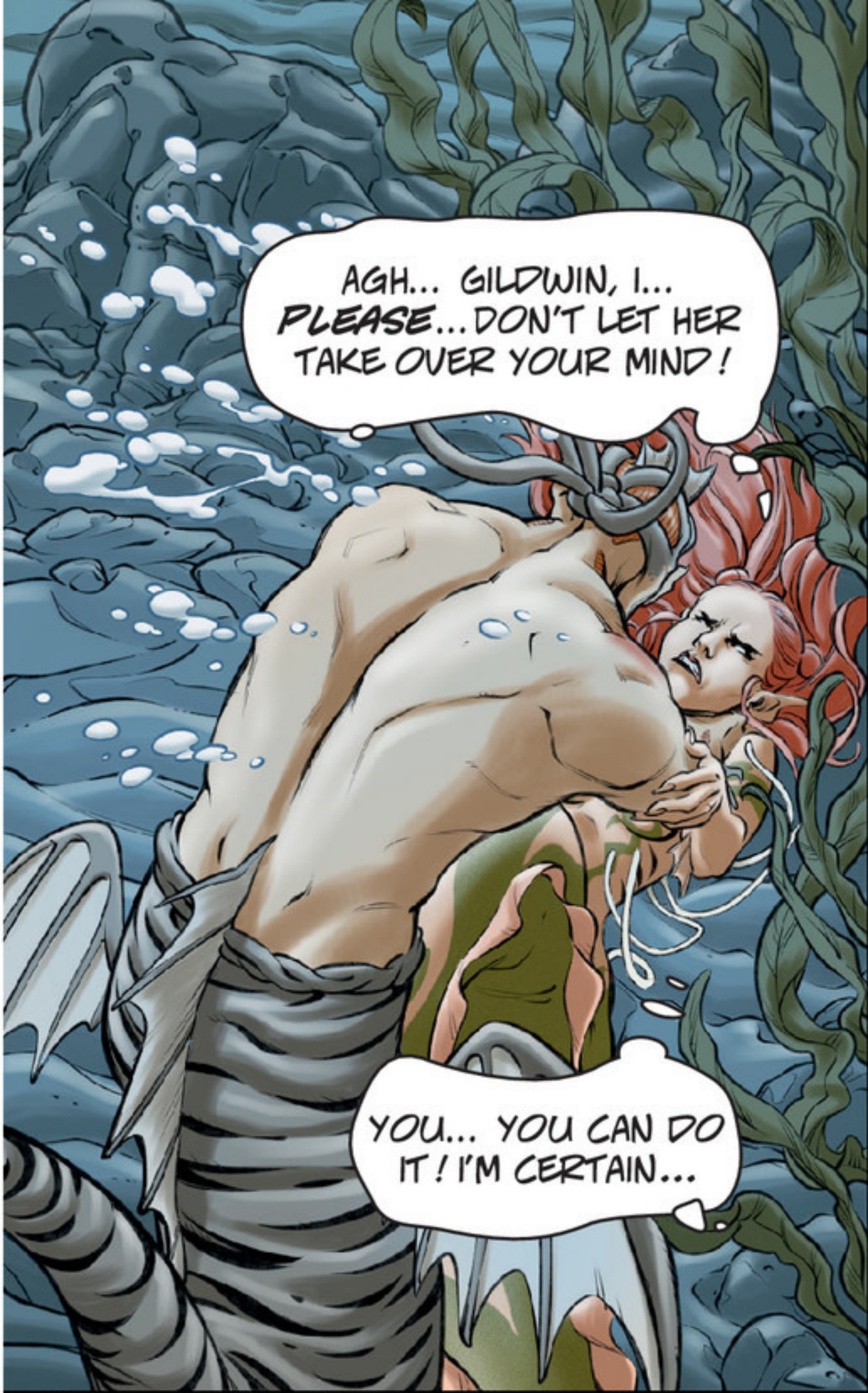
SHE'S AN EVIL DJINN. A SERPENT WOMAN FROM THE SOUTH SEAS. THEY ARE THE SWORN ENEMY OF MY SPECIES. IF YOU FREE HER, SHE COULD KILL US ALL!

SHE FEELS NO LOVE FOR YOU. SHE SPAWNED YOU PURELY AS HER LAST CHANCE OF ESCAPING THIS CAGE.

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A TOY TO HER. DJINNS ARE MASTERS OF MANIPULATION.

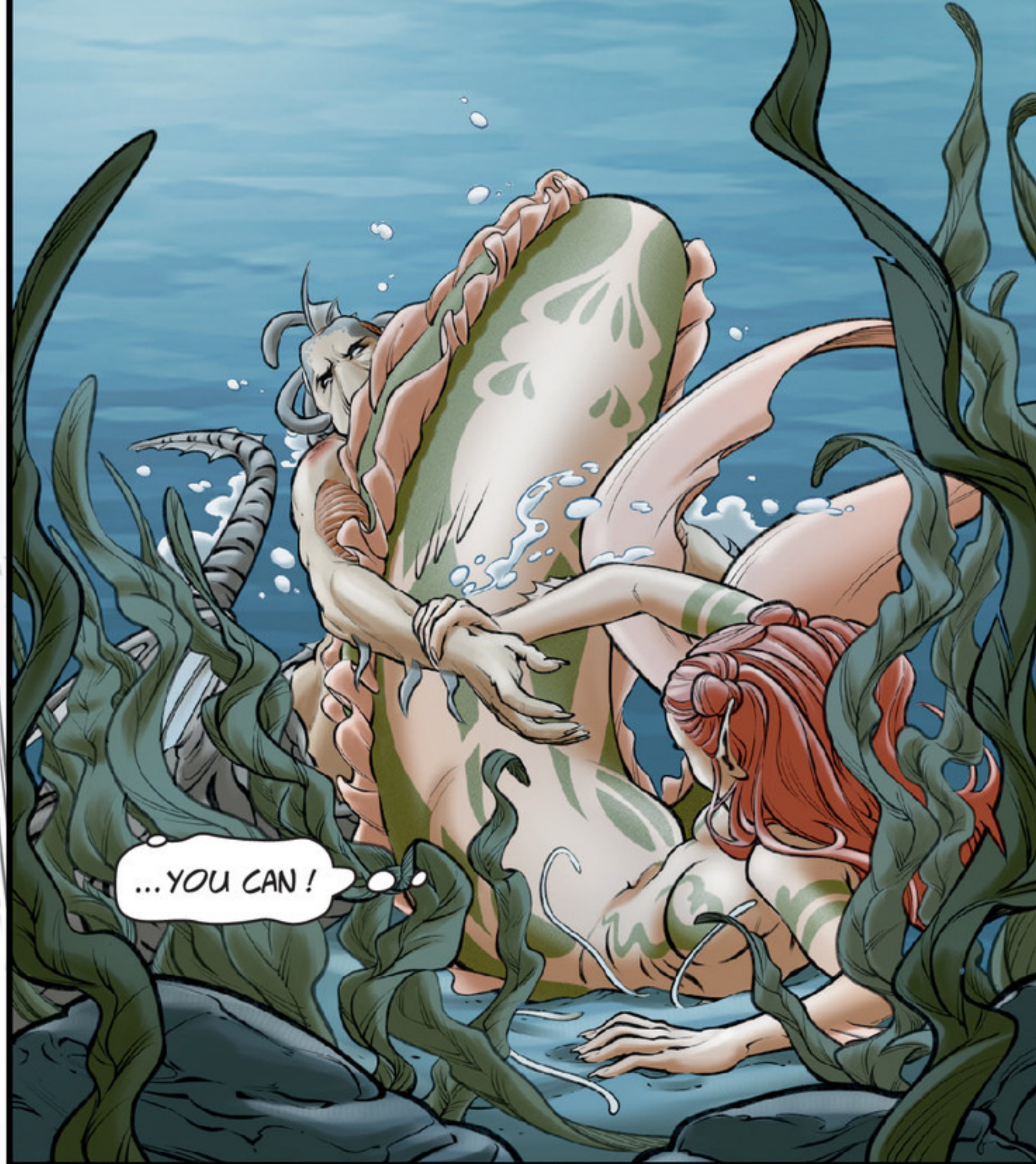
SSSSSSSSSSSSSS!



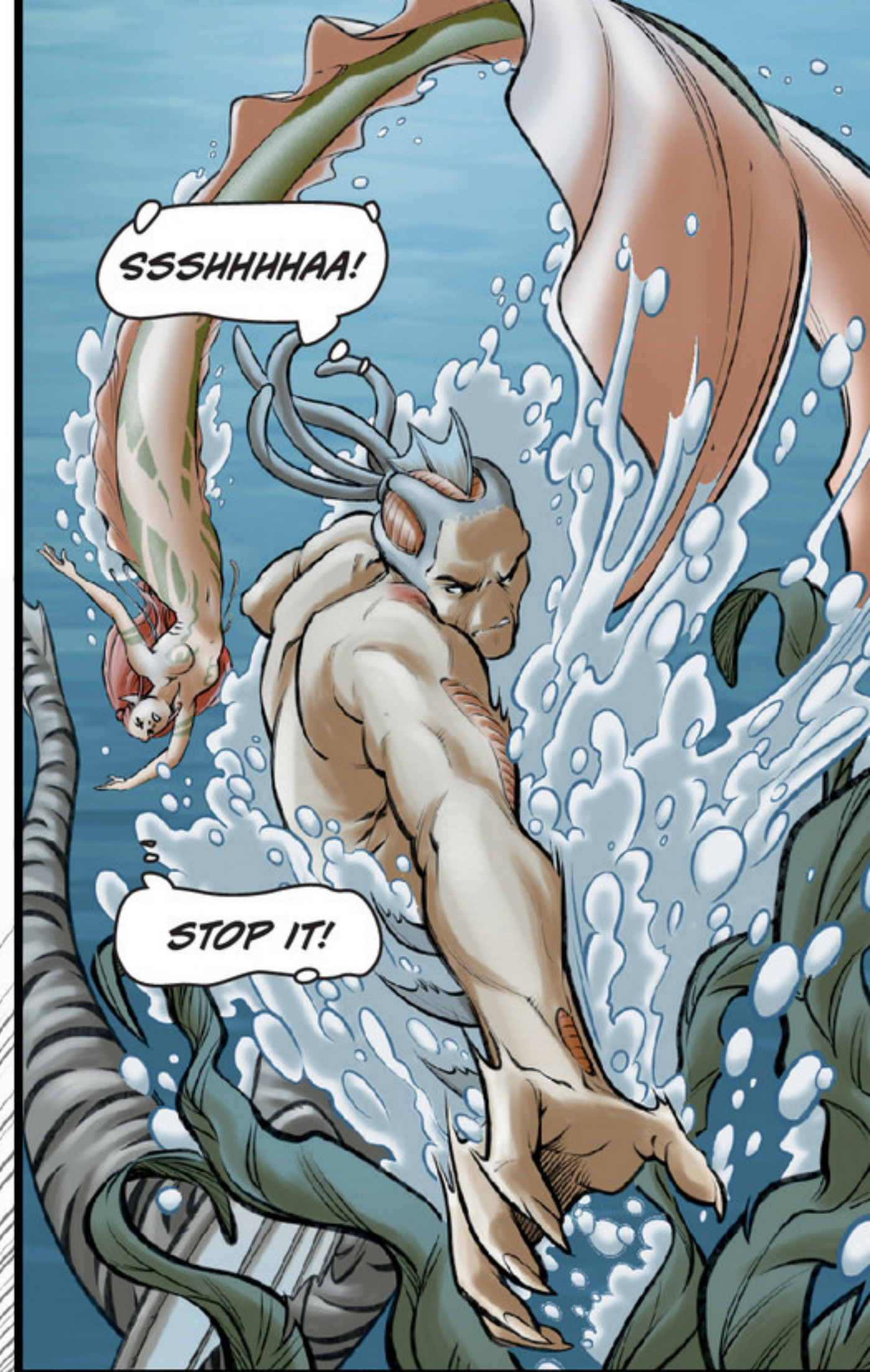


AGH... GILDWIN, I...
PLEASE... DON'T LET HER
TAKE OVER YOUR MIND!

YOU... YOU CAN DO
IT! I'M CERTAIN...

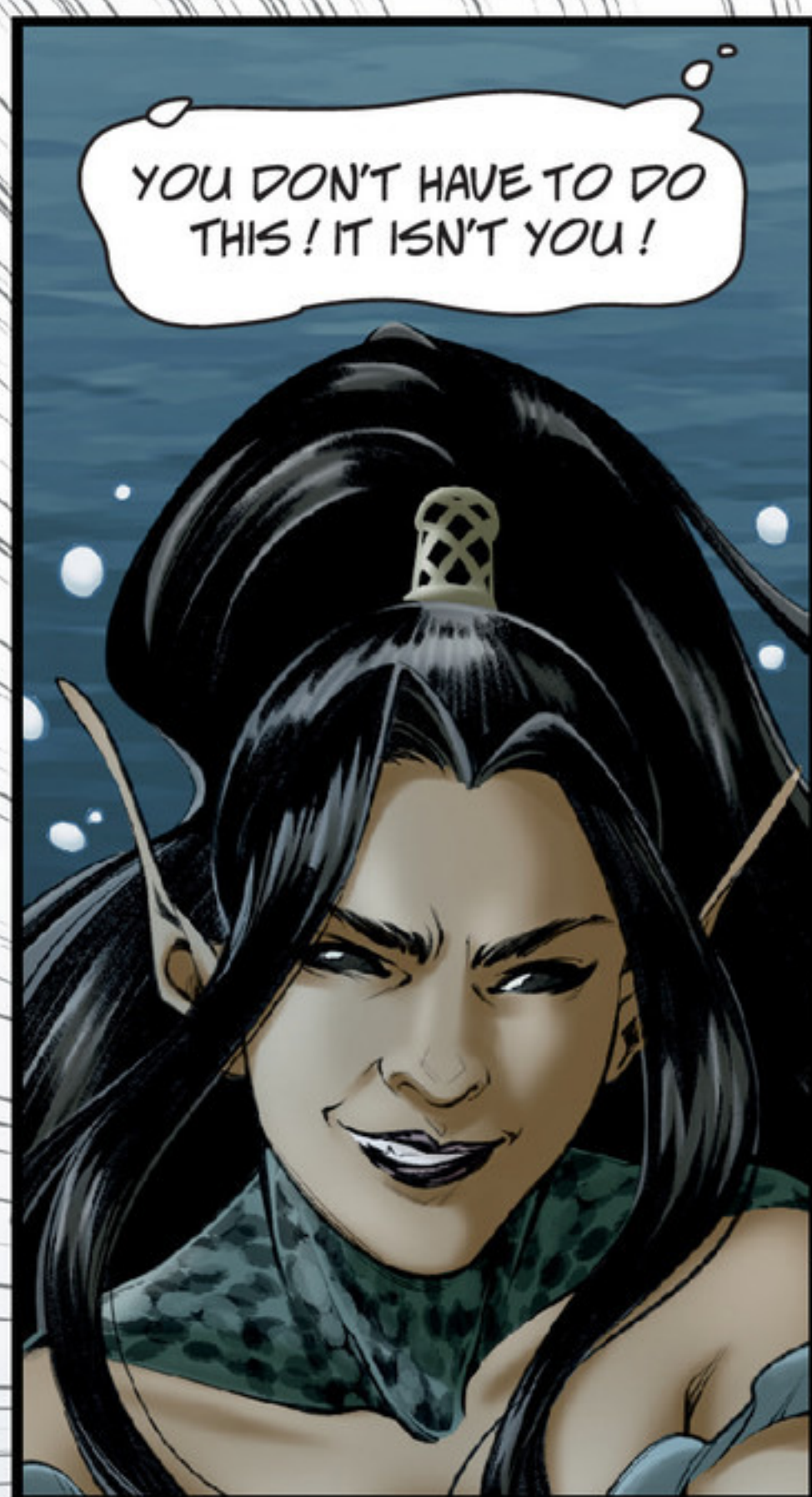


...YOU CAN!

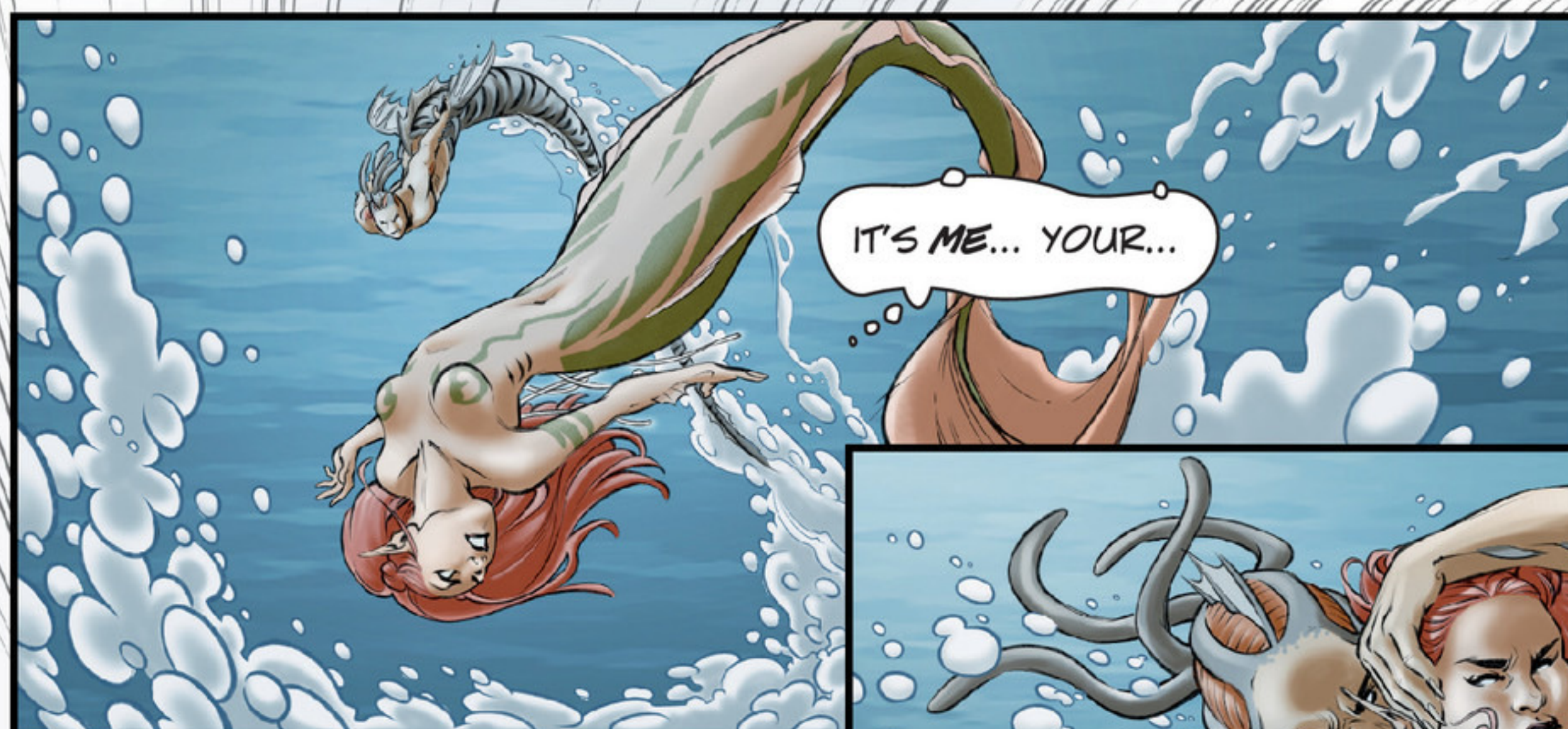


SSSHHHHAA!

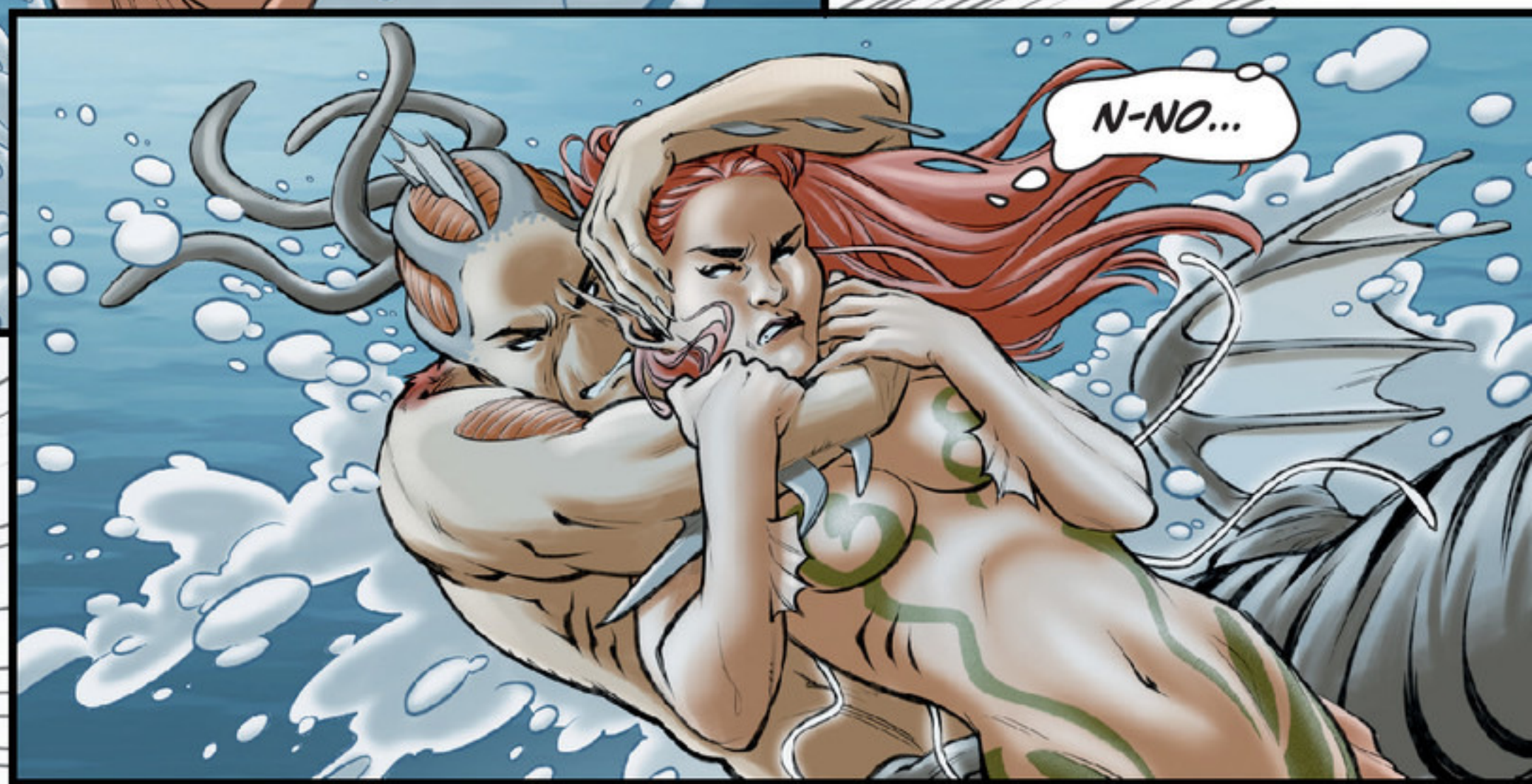
STOP IT!



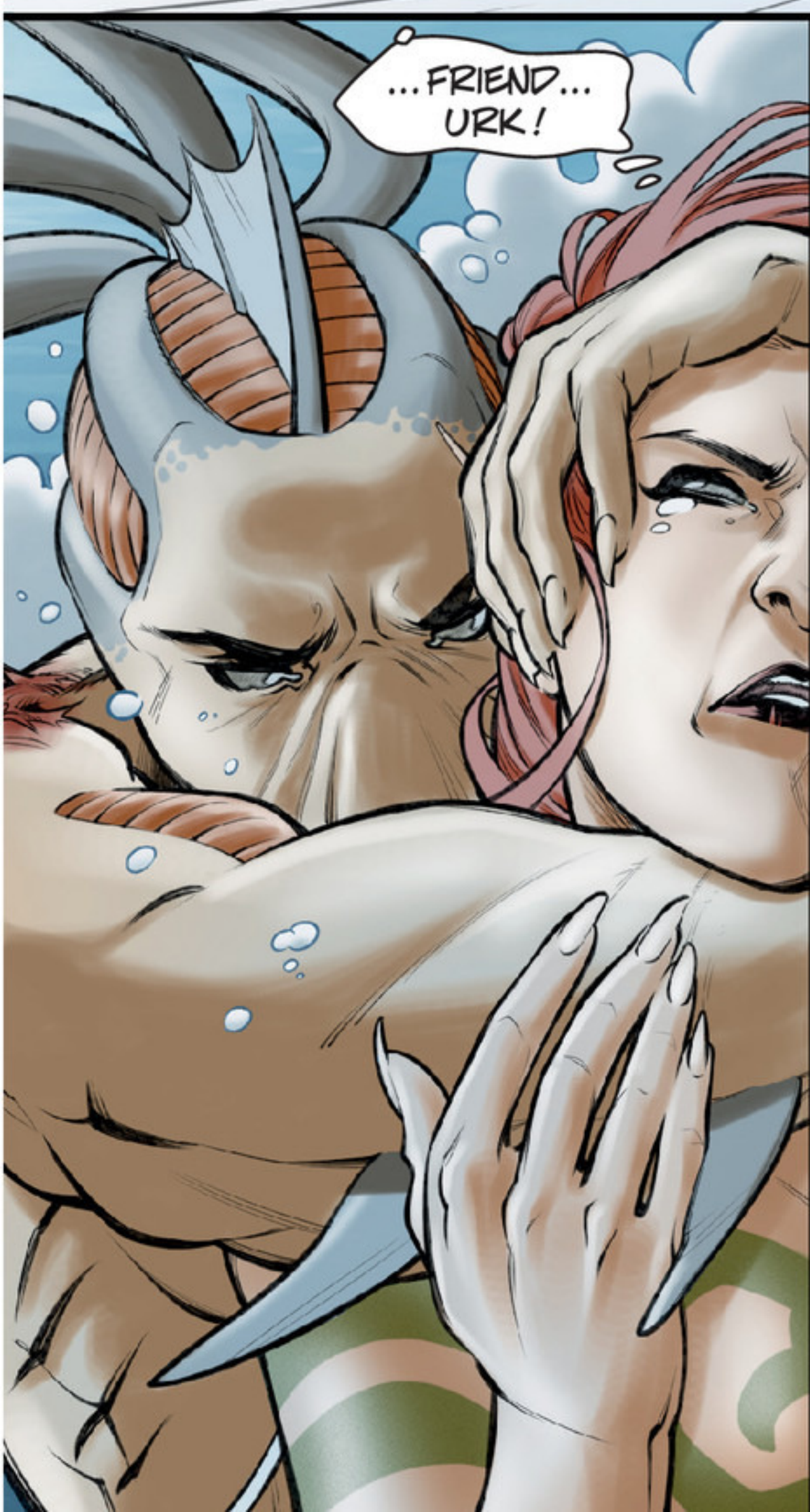
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO
THIS! IT ISN'T YOU!



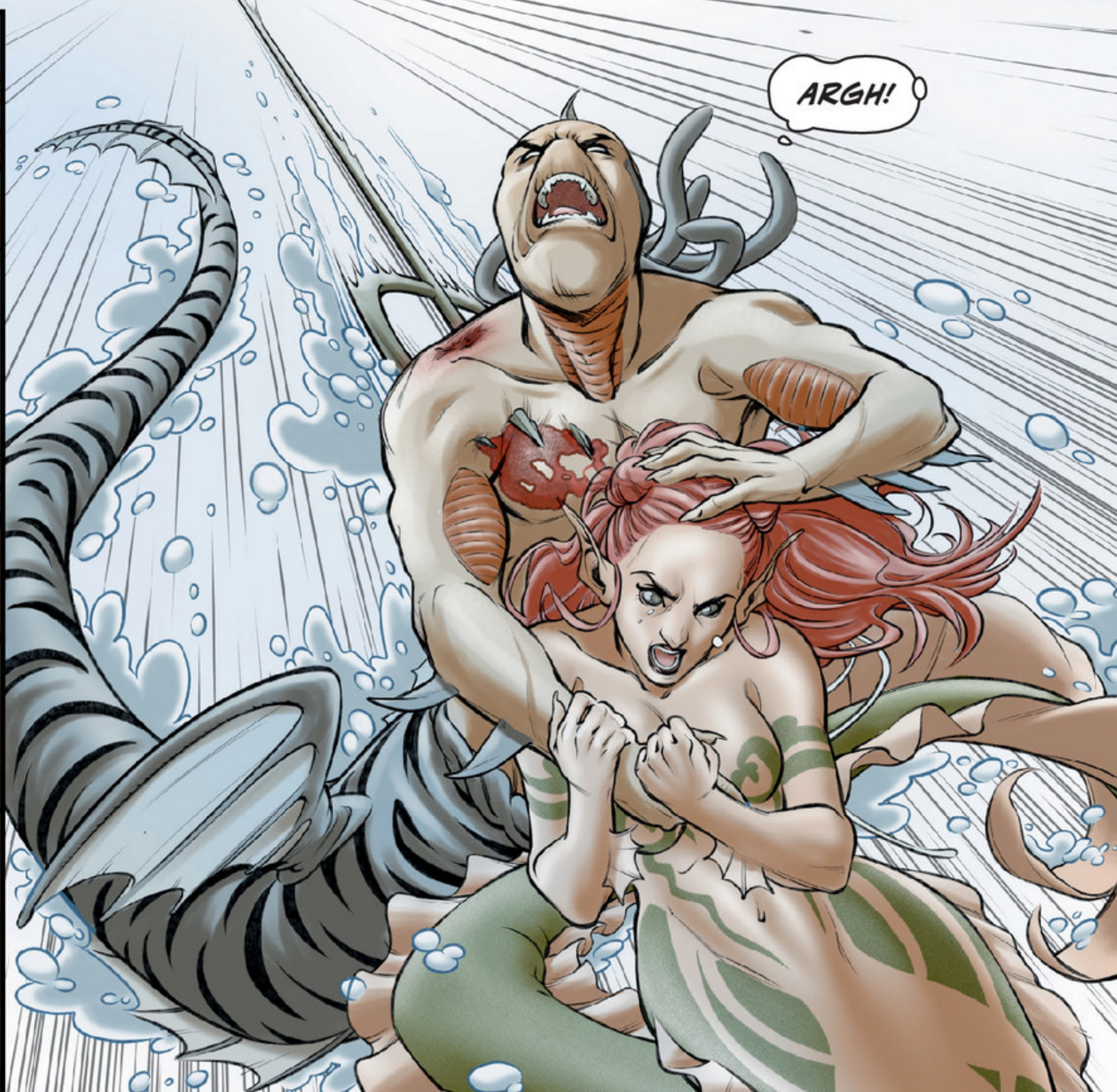
IT'S ME... YOUR...



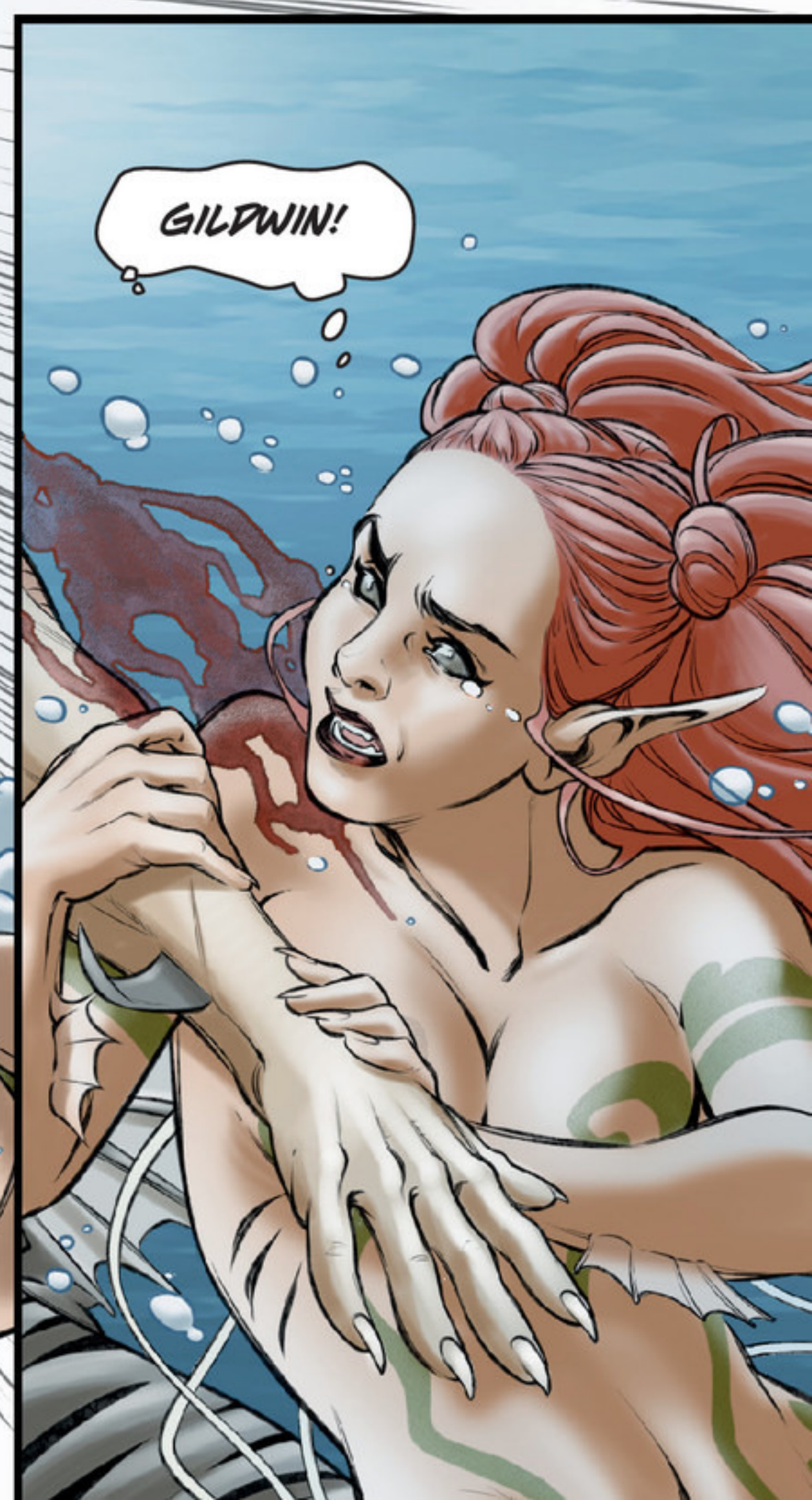
N-NO...



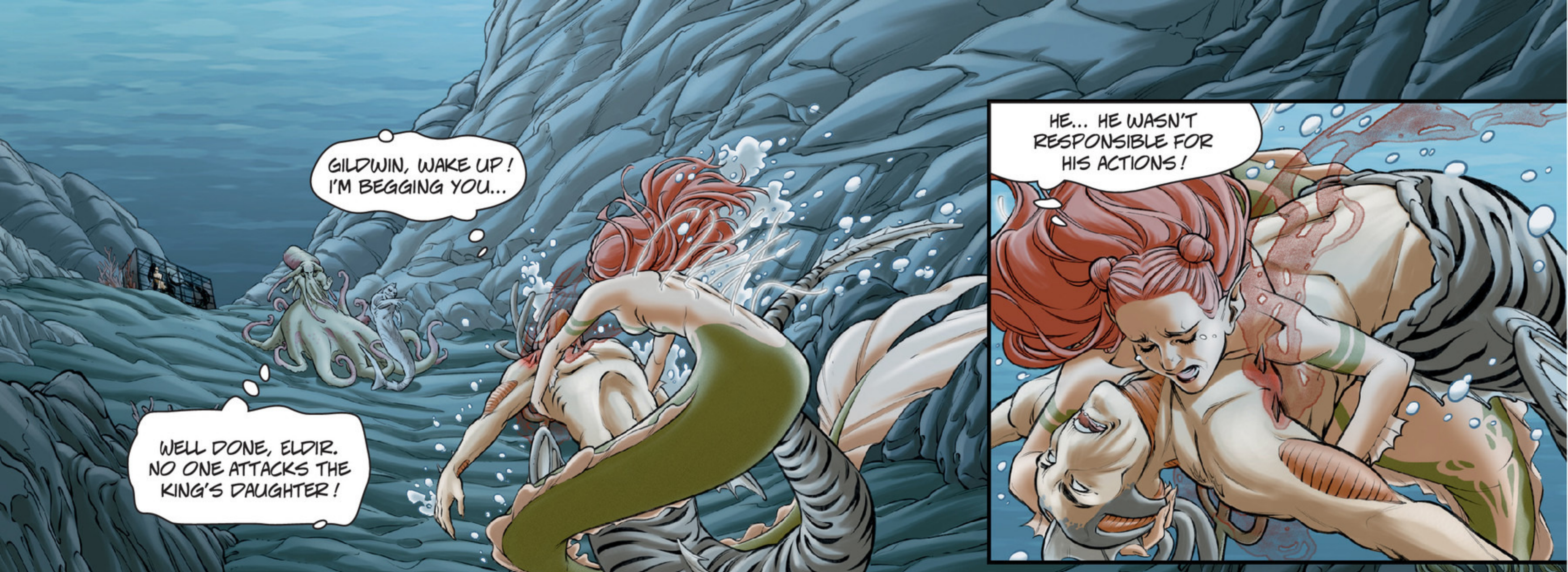
...FRIEND...
URK!



ARGH!



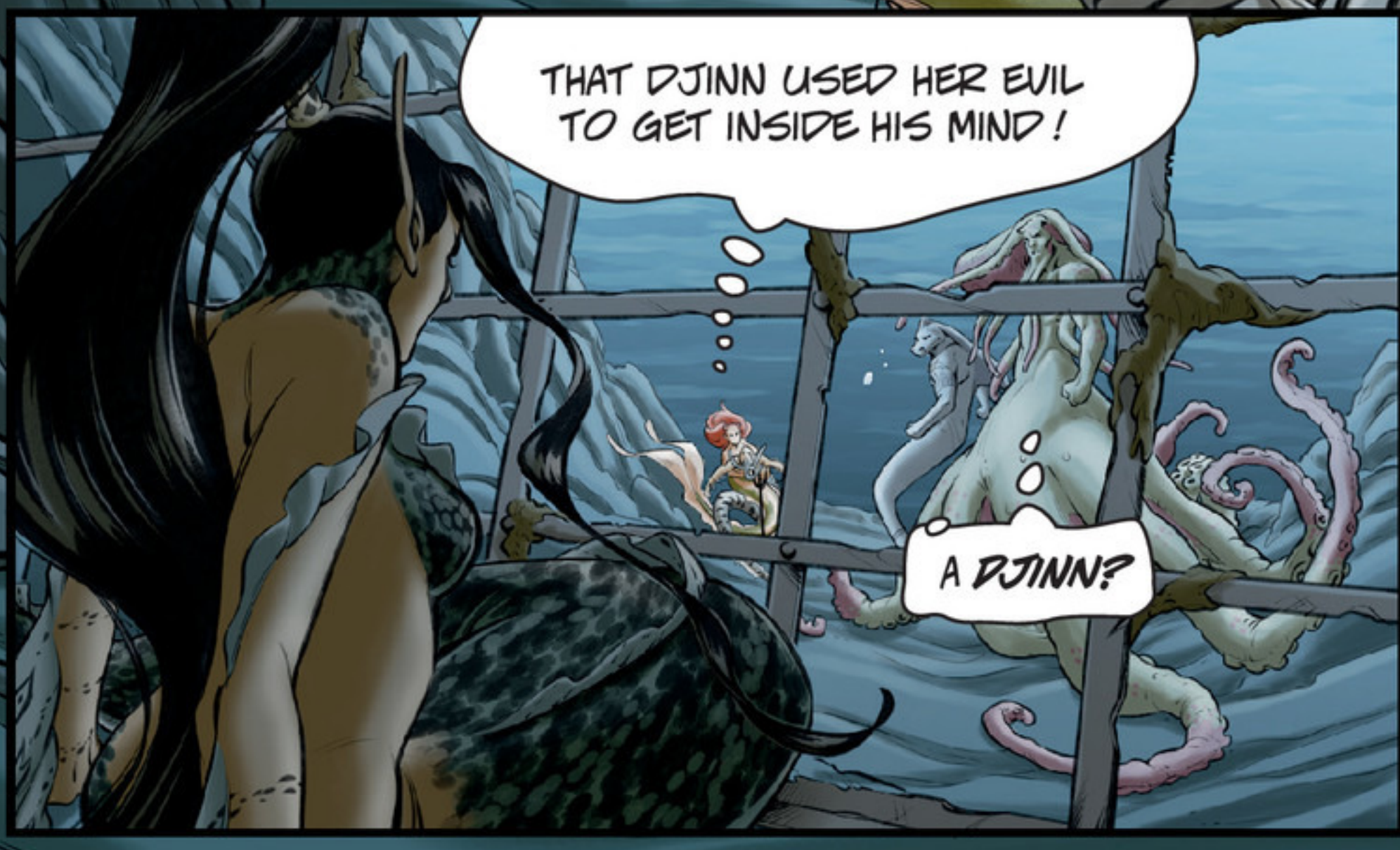
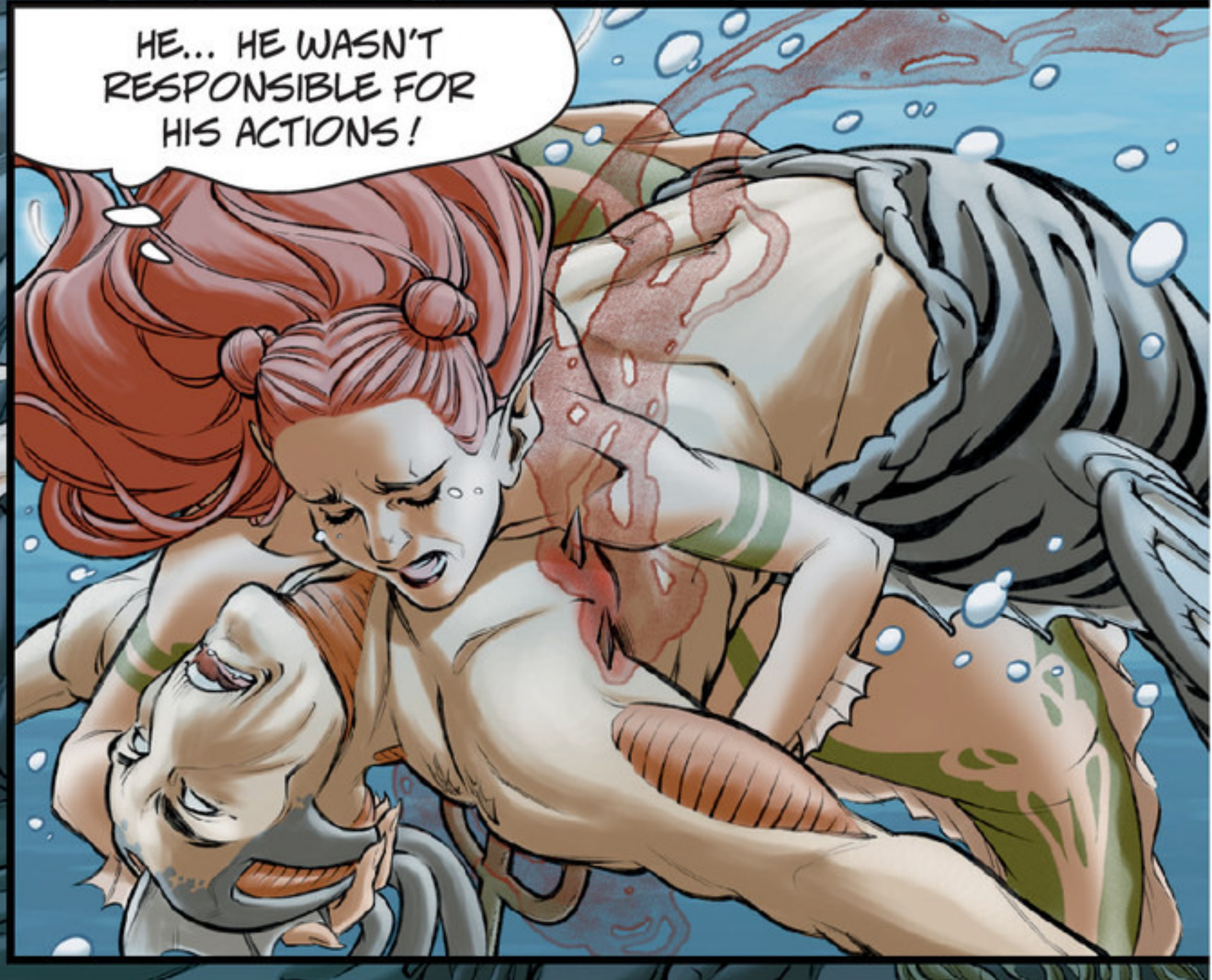
GILDWIN!



GILDWIN, WAKE UP!
I'M BEGGING YOU...

WELL DONE, ELDIR.
NO ONE ATTACKS THE
KING'S DAUGHTER!

HE... HE WASN'T
RESPONSIBLE FOR
HIS ACTIONS!

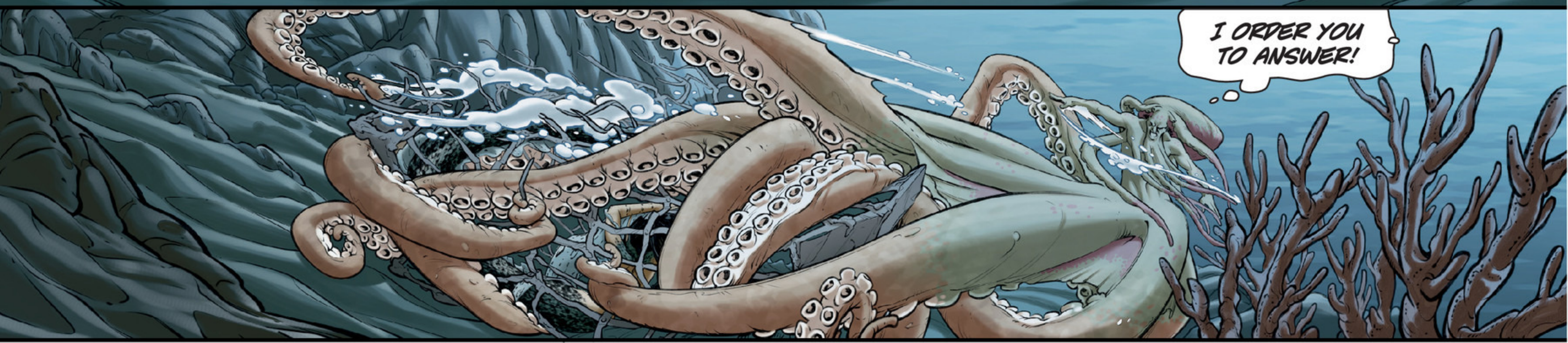


THAT DJINN USED HER EVIL
TO GET INSIDE HIS MIND!

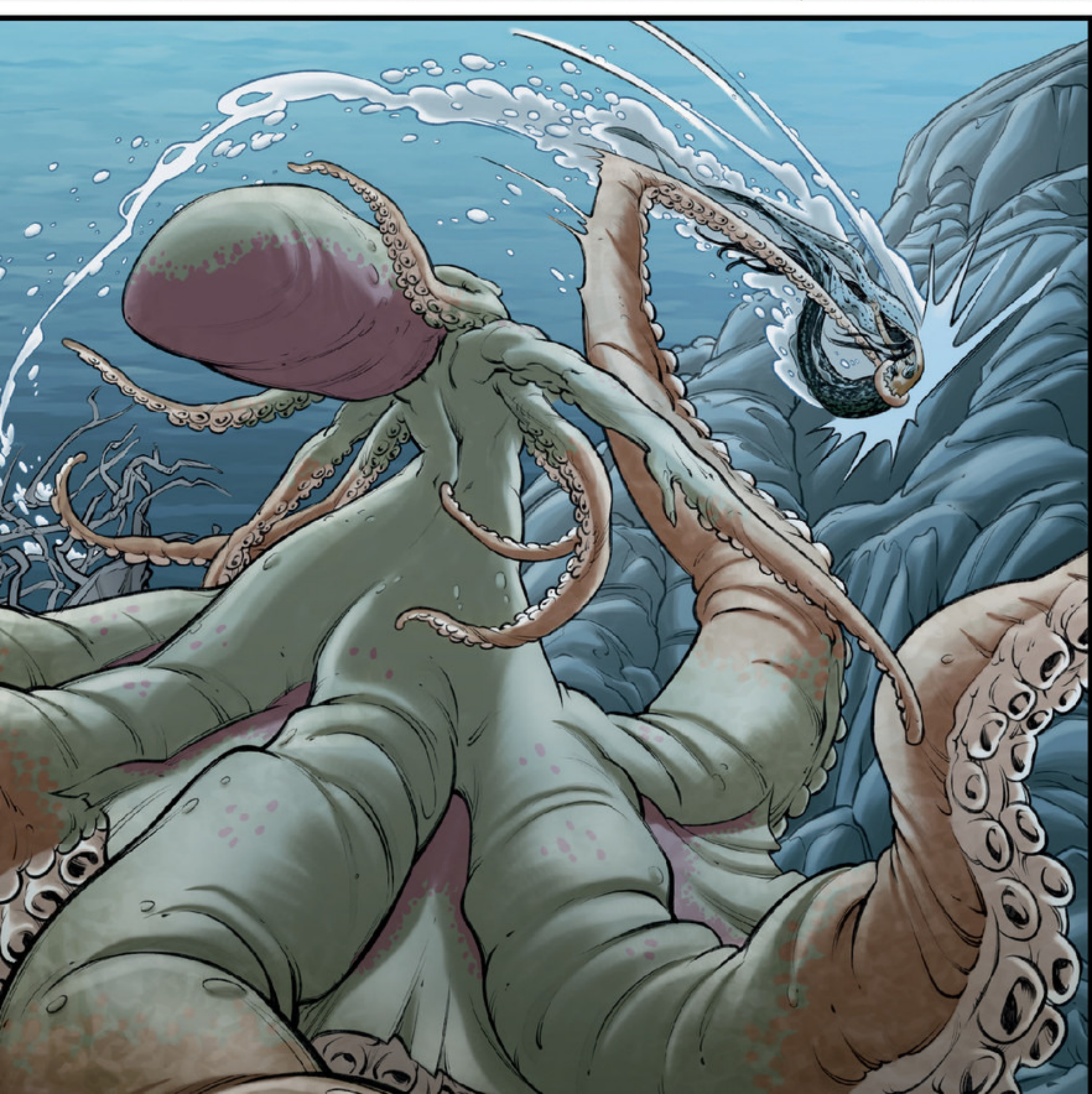
A DJINN?



WHY ARE YOU
IN MY KINGDOM,
PERFIDIOUS
SNAKE?



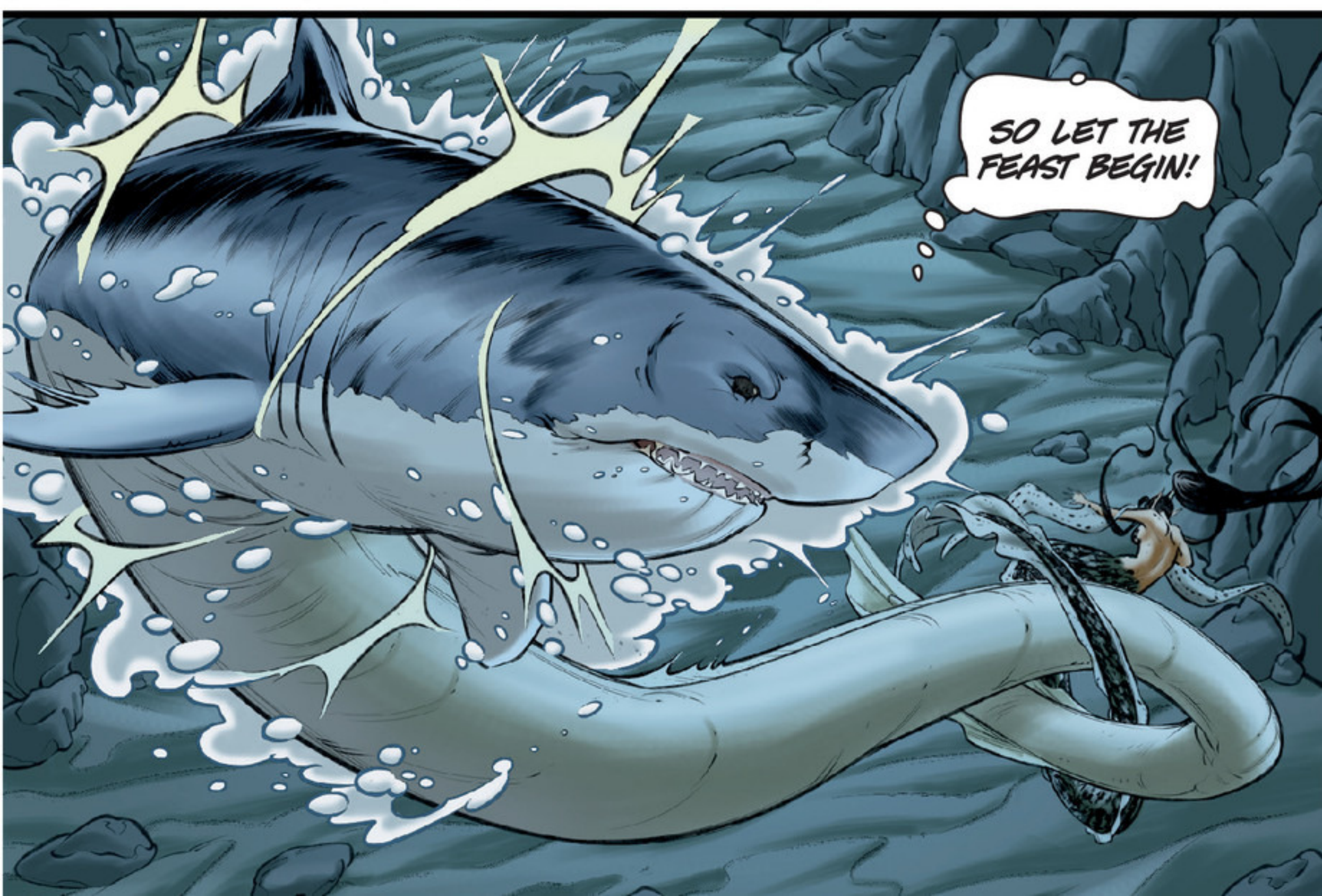
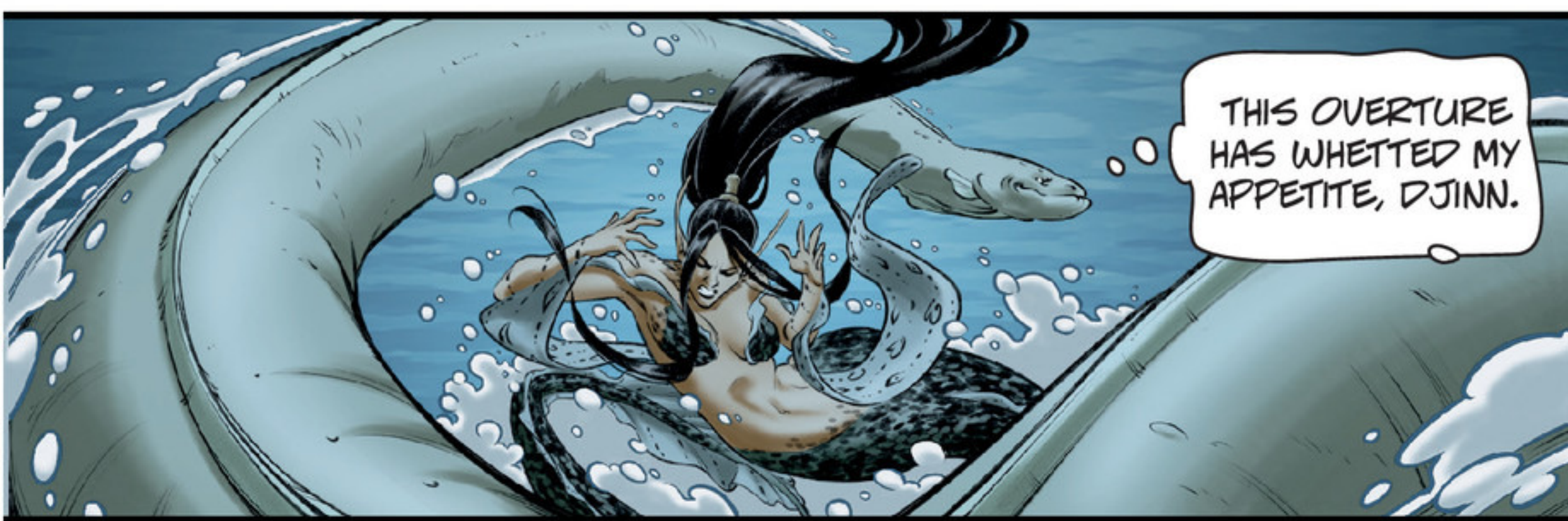
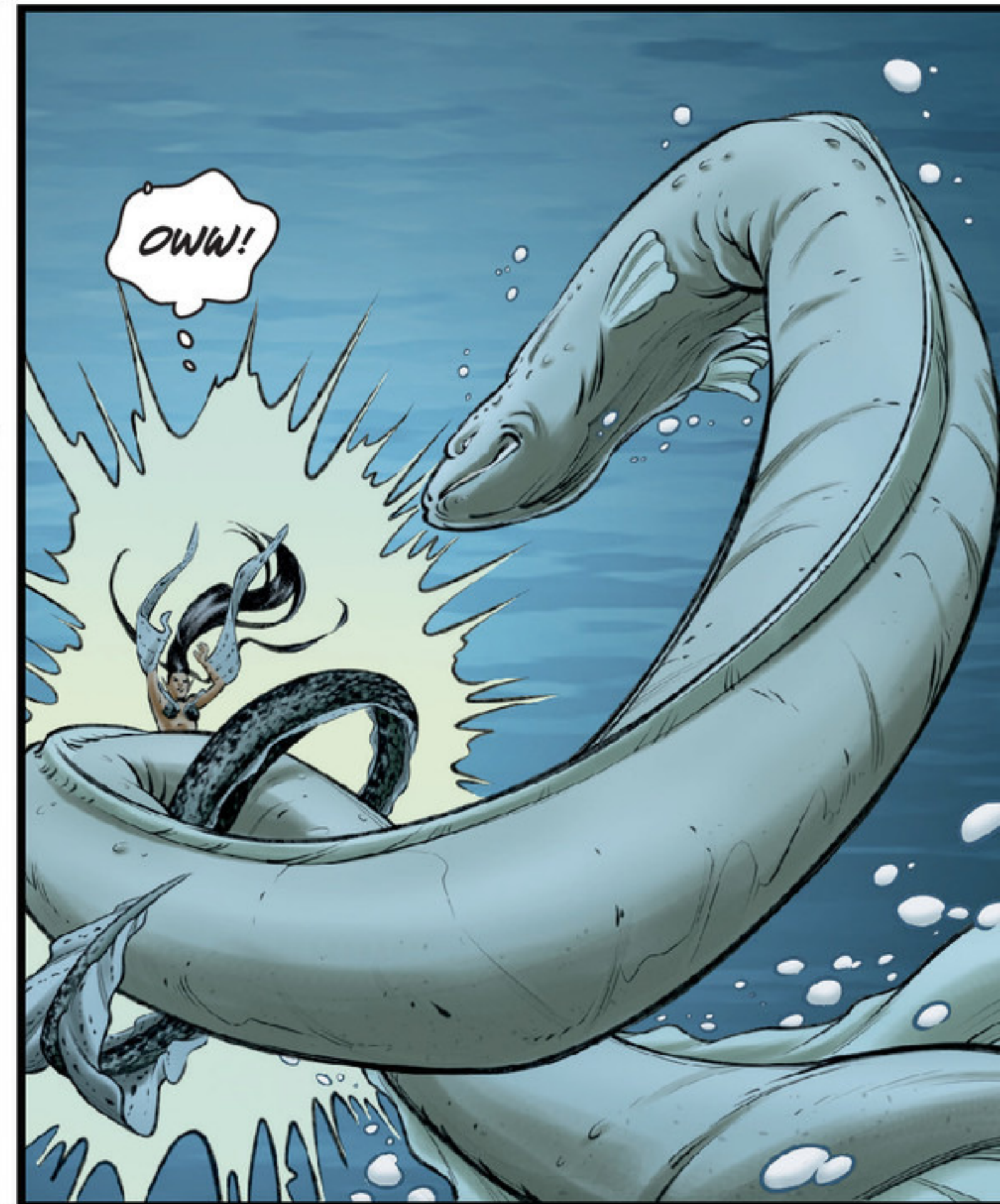
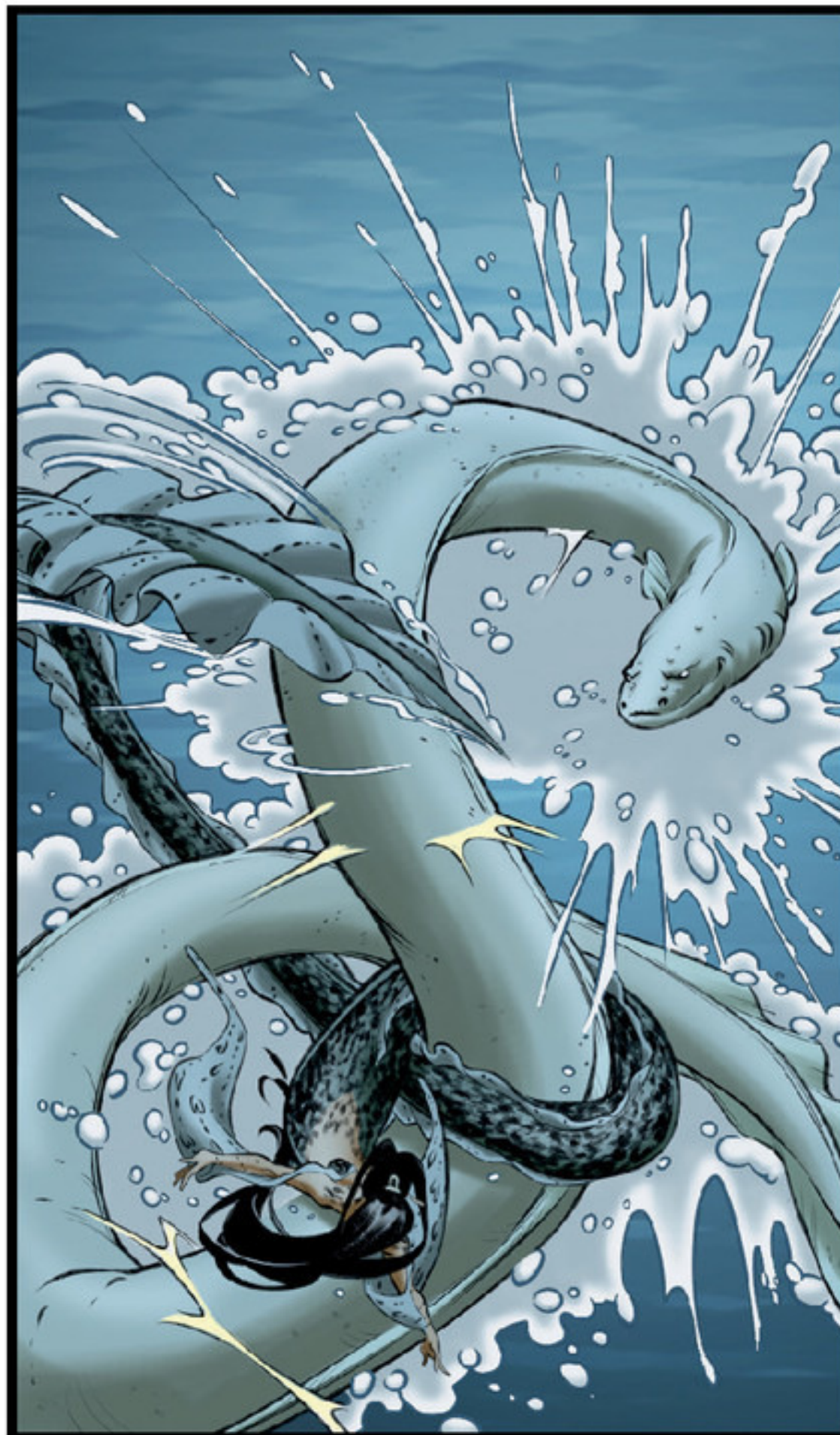
I ORDER YOU
TO ANSWER!

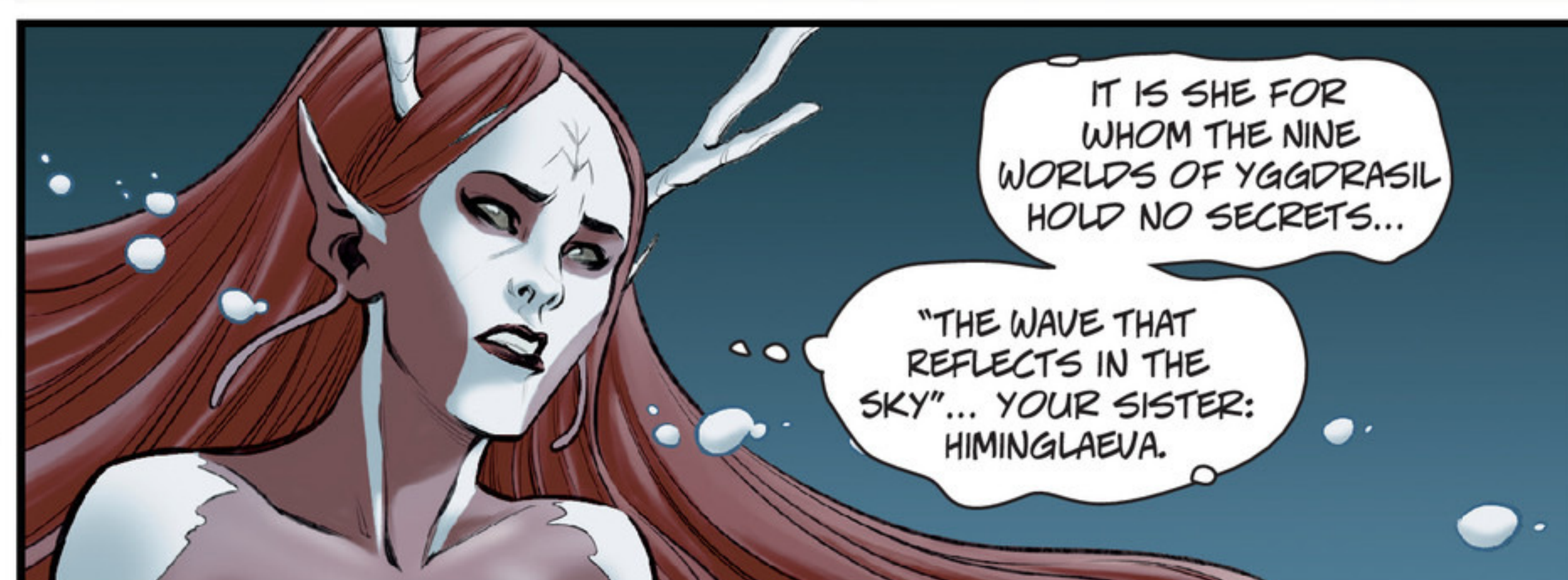
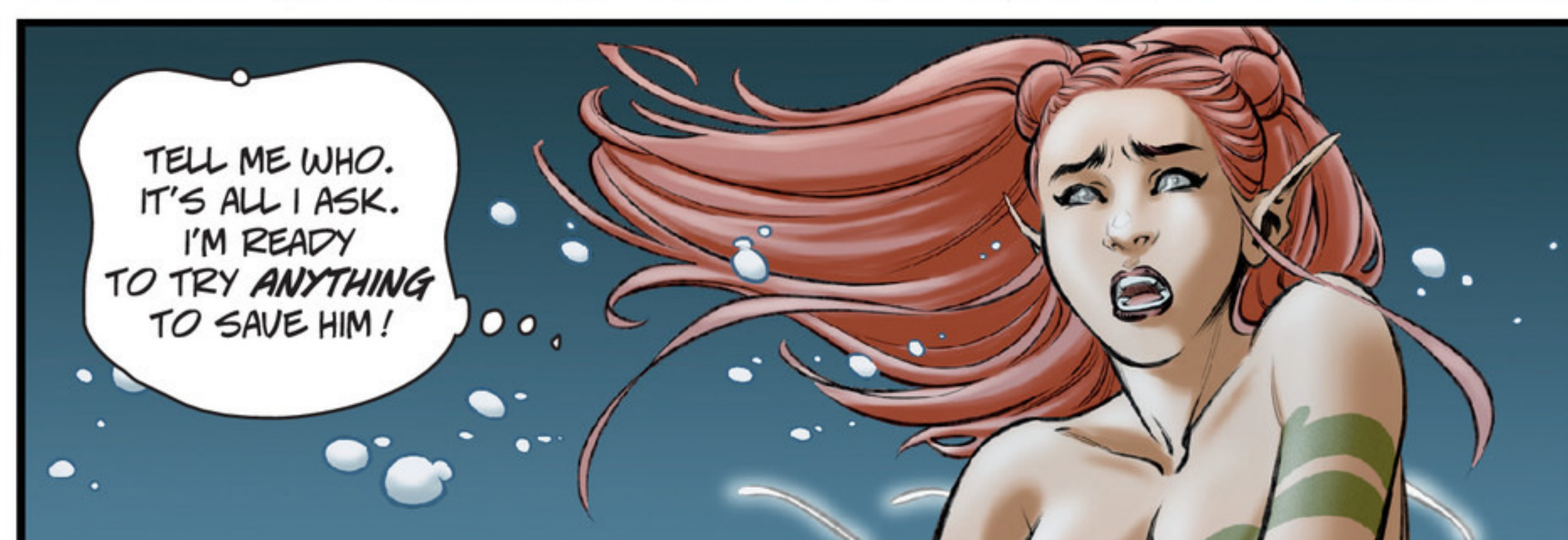
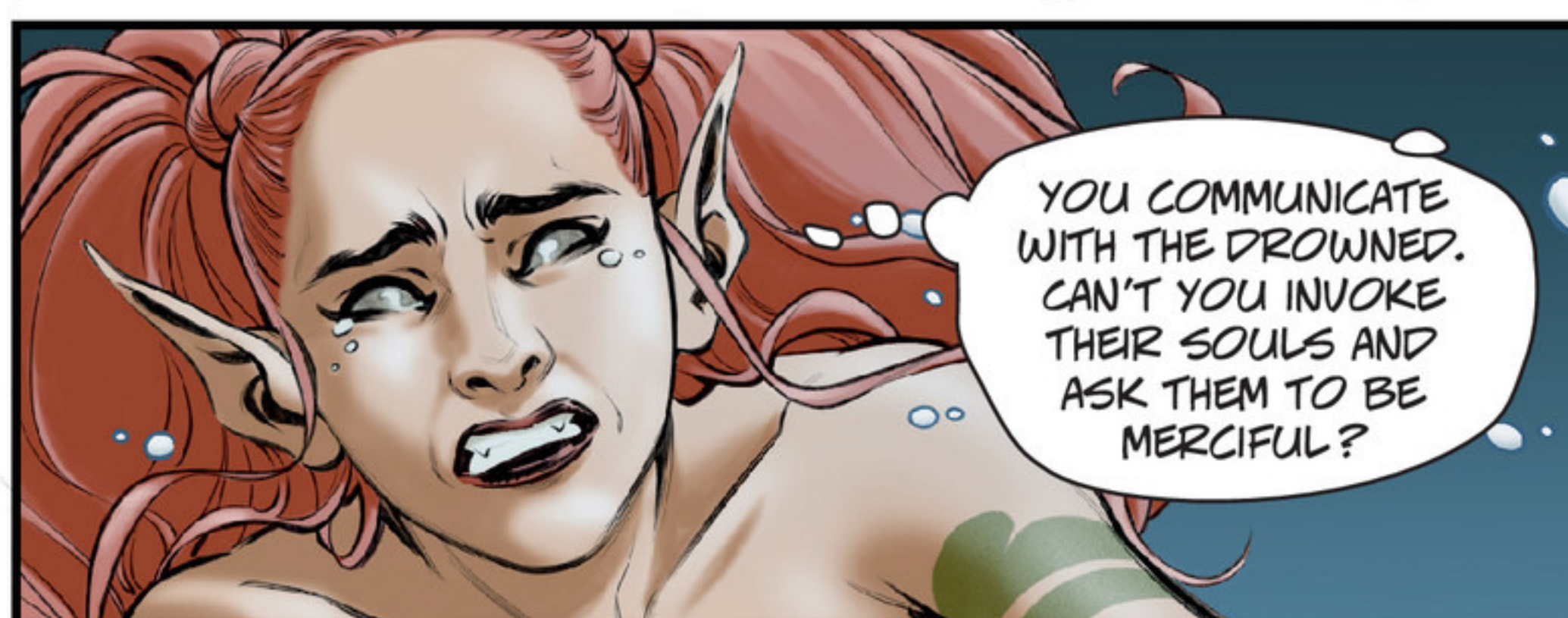


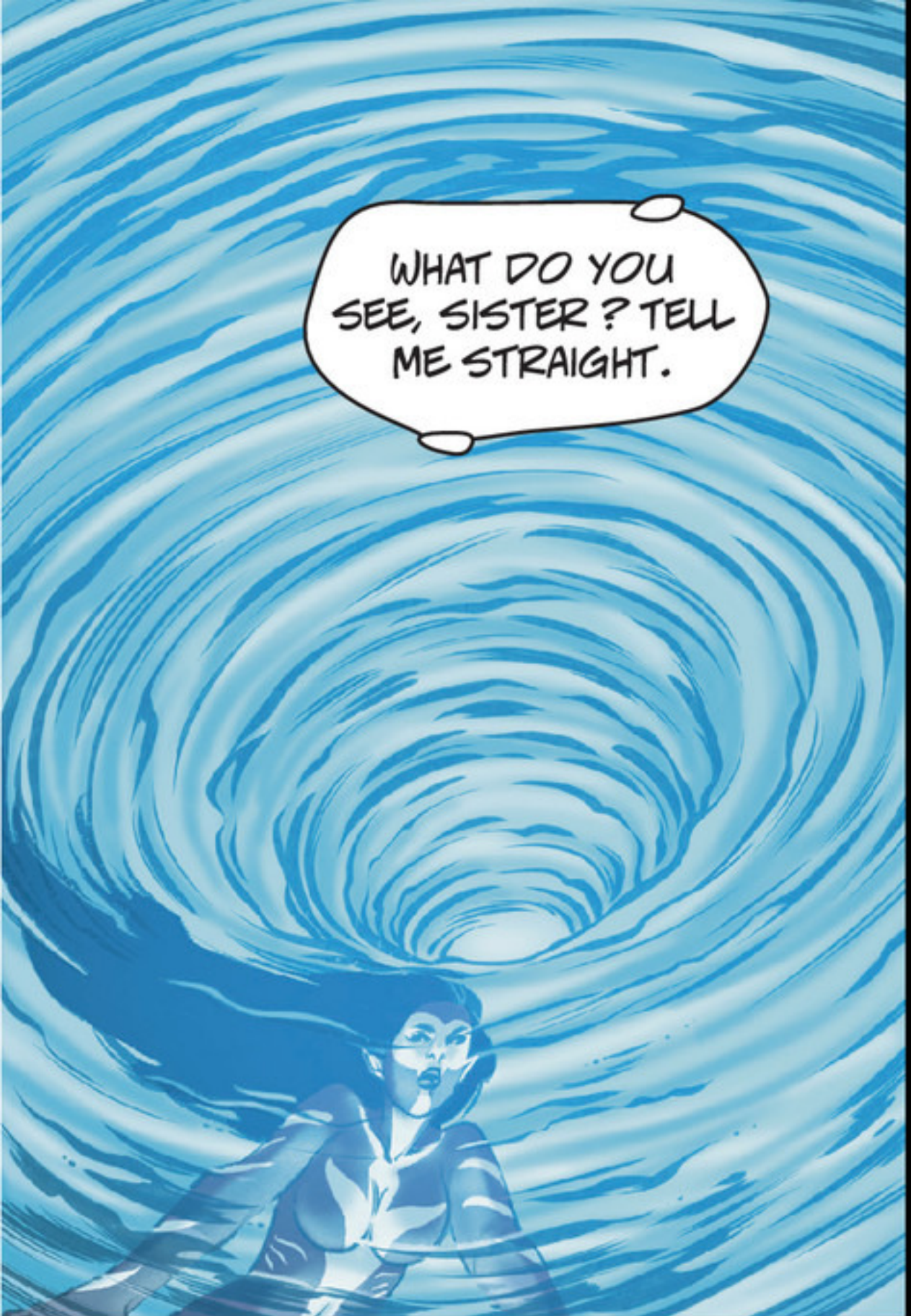
سنگدو



TRYING TO WORM
YOUR WAY INTO
MY HEAD, DJINN?







WHAT DO YOU SEE, SISTER? TELL ME STRAIGHT.



RESTORING LIFE IS NO SIMPLE MATTER, BLODUGHADDA. THE LINES OF DESTINY ARE INFLEXIBLE.



BUT THE NORNS, WHO DICTATE THEM, CONTACTED ME THROUGH THE MIRROR OF THE WATER OF KNOWLEDGE.



THEY KNOW OF YOUR POWER AND SPOKE ACCORDINGLY.

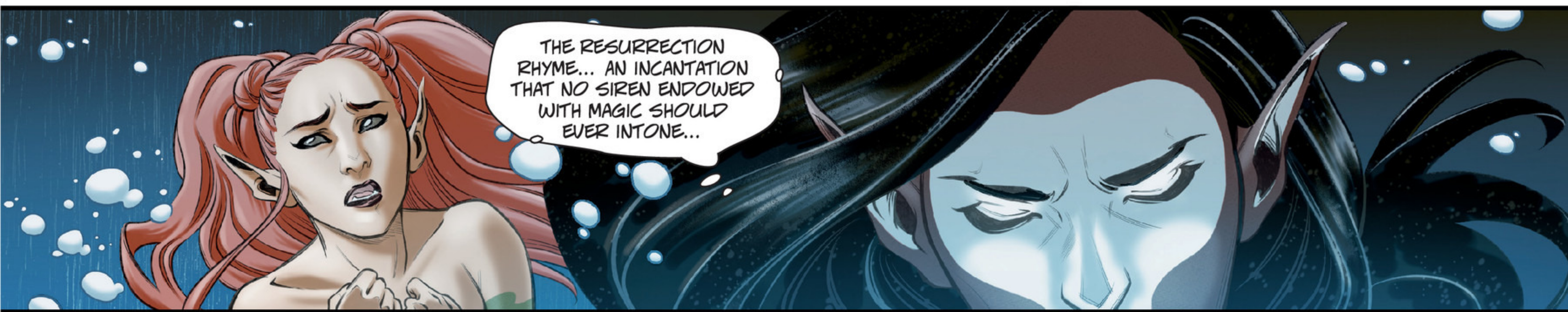


THERE IS A WAY FOR YOU TO SAVE YOUR FRIEND, BUT IT ENTAILS A DREADFUL PUNISHMENT...

...FOR YOU.



WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



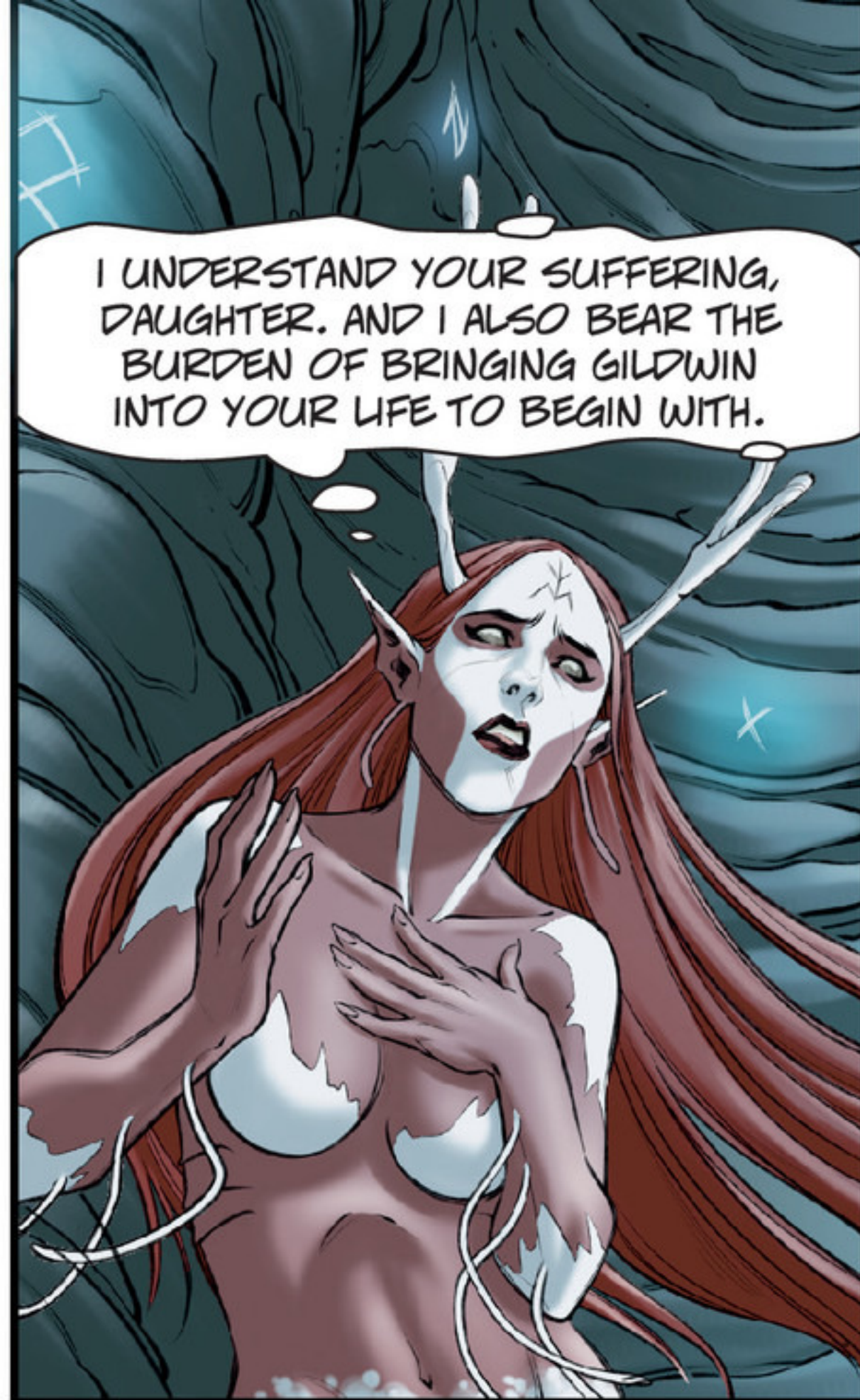
THE RESURRECTION RHYME... AN INCANTATION THAT NO SIREN ENDOWED WITH MAGIC SHOULD EVER INTONE...



...FOR IT WILL DRAIN HER OF HER POWER...



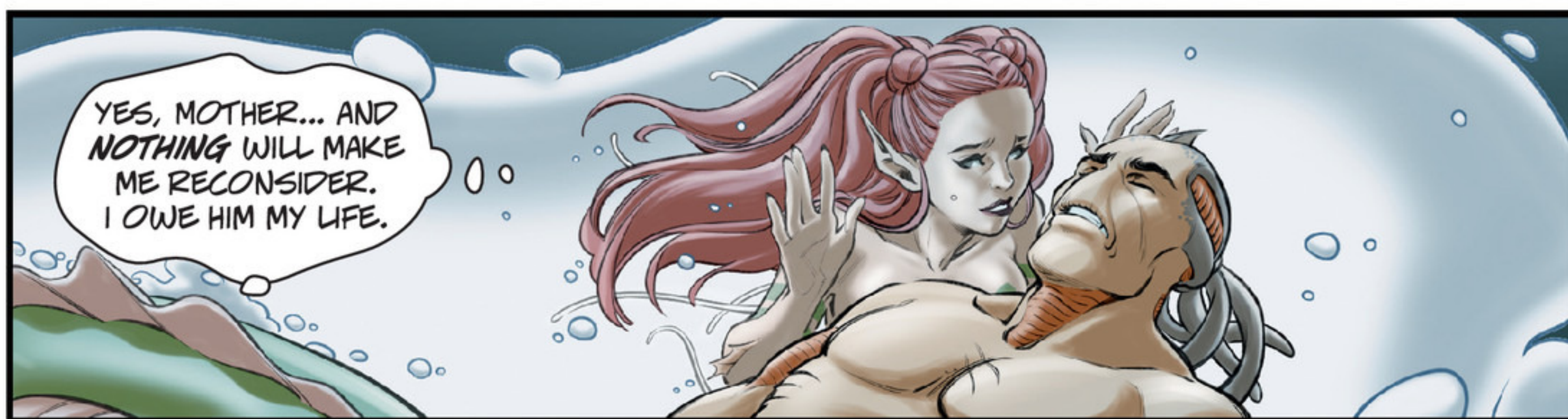
...CONDEMNING HER TO A LIFE THAT NONE AMONG US WOULD WISH FOR.



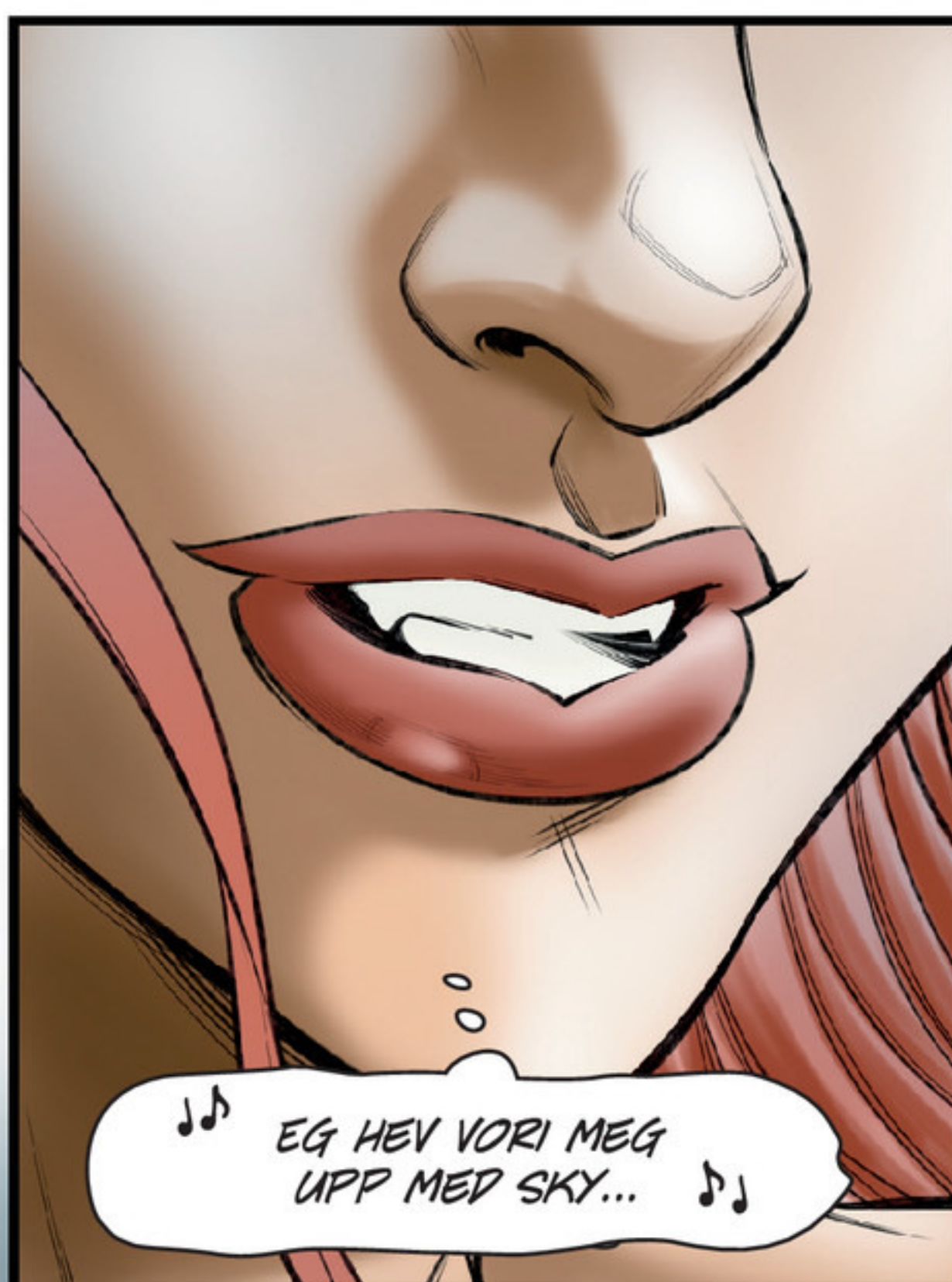
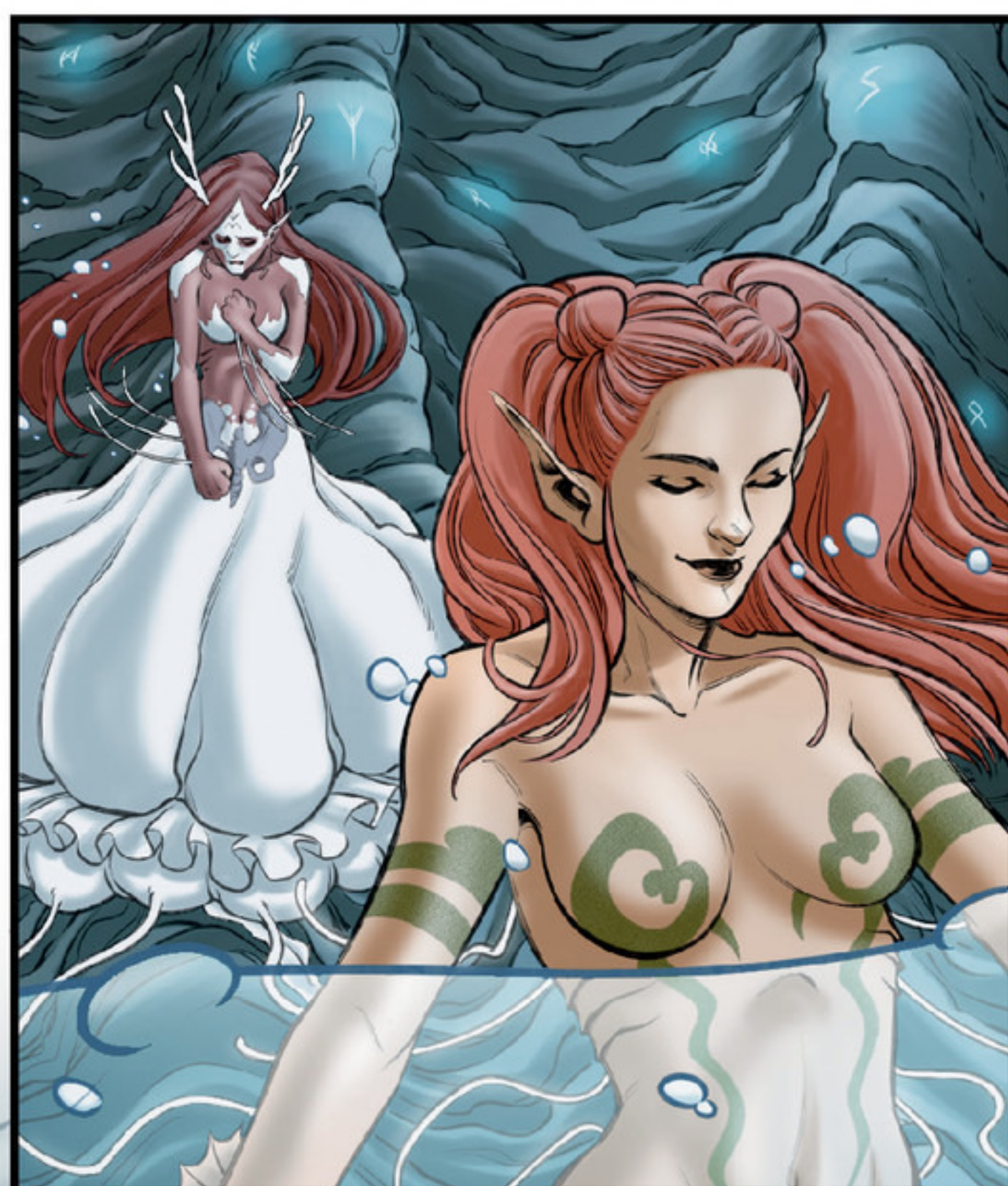
I UNDERSTAND YOUR SUFFERING, DAUGHTER. AND I ALSO BEAR THE BURDEN OF BRINGING GILDWIN INTO YOUR LIFE TO BEGIN WITH.



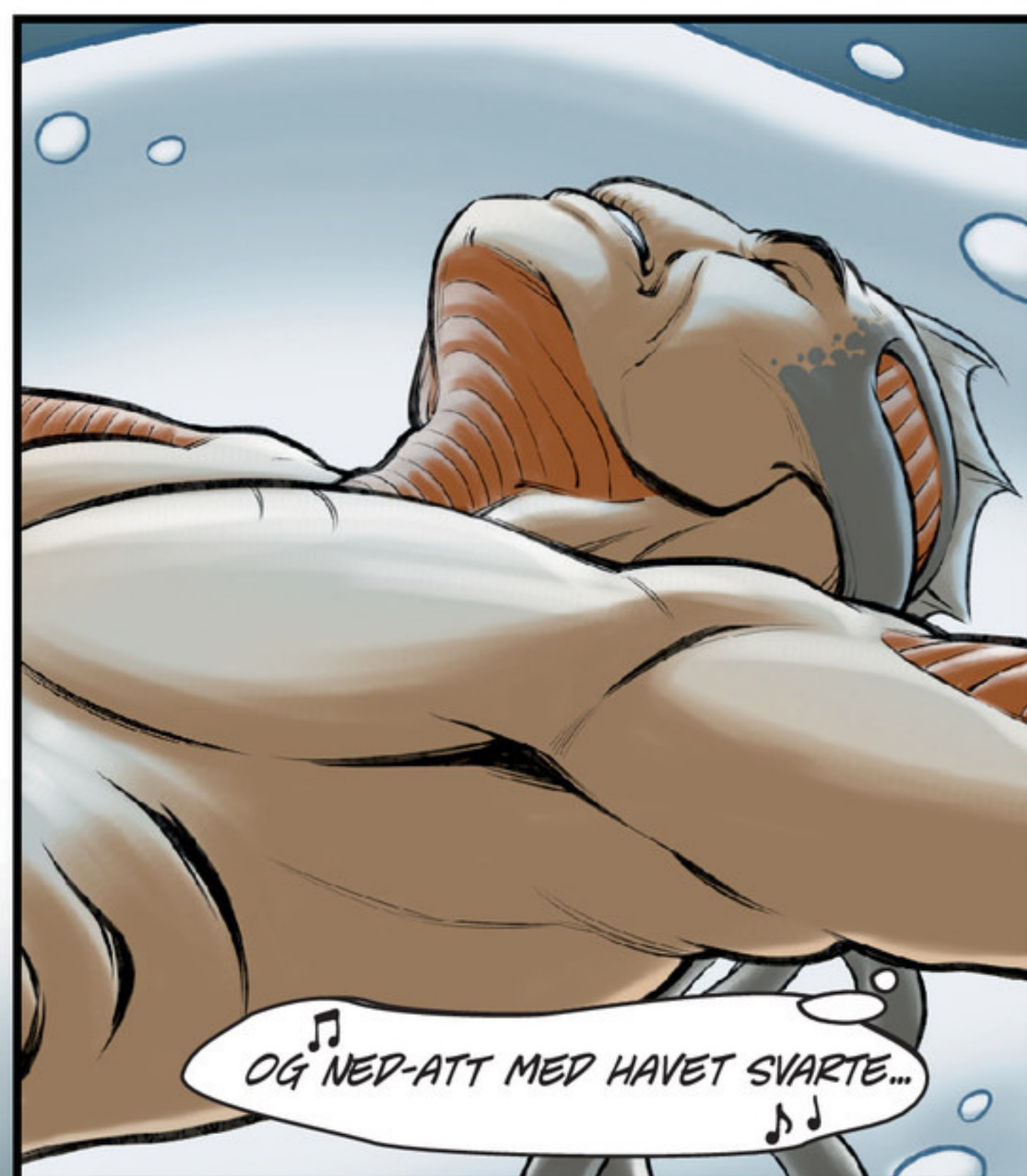
BUT HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THIS SACRIFICE YOU INTEND TO MAKE?



YES, MOTHER... AND **NOTHING** WILL MAKE ME RECONSIDER. I OWE HIM MY LIFE.



♪ EG HEV VORI MEG UPP MED SKY... ♪



♪ OG NED-ATT MED HAVET SVARTE... ♪



♪ DEN SOM VIL MITT FOTSPOR FYLJE... ♪



♪ LAER 'KJE AV BLIDOM HJARTA... ♪



BLODUGHADDA!



SHE IS...
GONE, GILDWIN.

NO. SHE HEAR
ME. TALK TO ME
BY THINKING.



BLODUGHADDA?

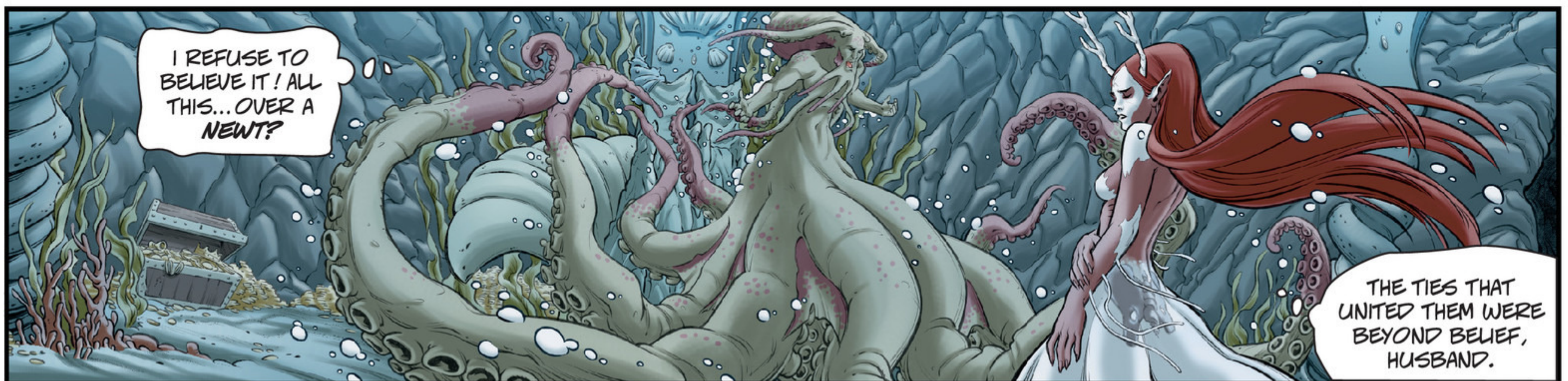
WHERE SHE'S
GONE, SHE CANNOT
HEAR YOU.



SHE SACRIFICED WHAT
SHE CHERISHED THE
MOST, TO SAVE YOU.

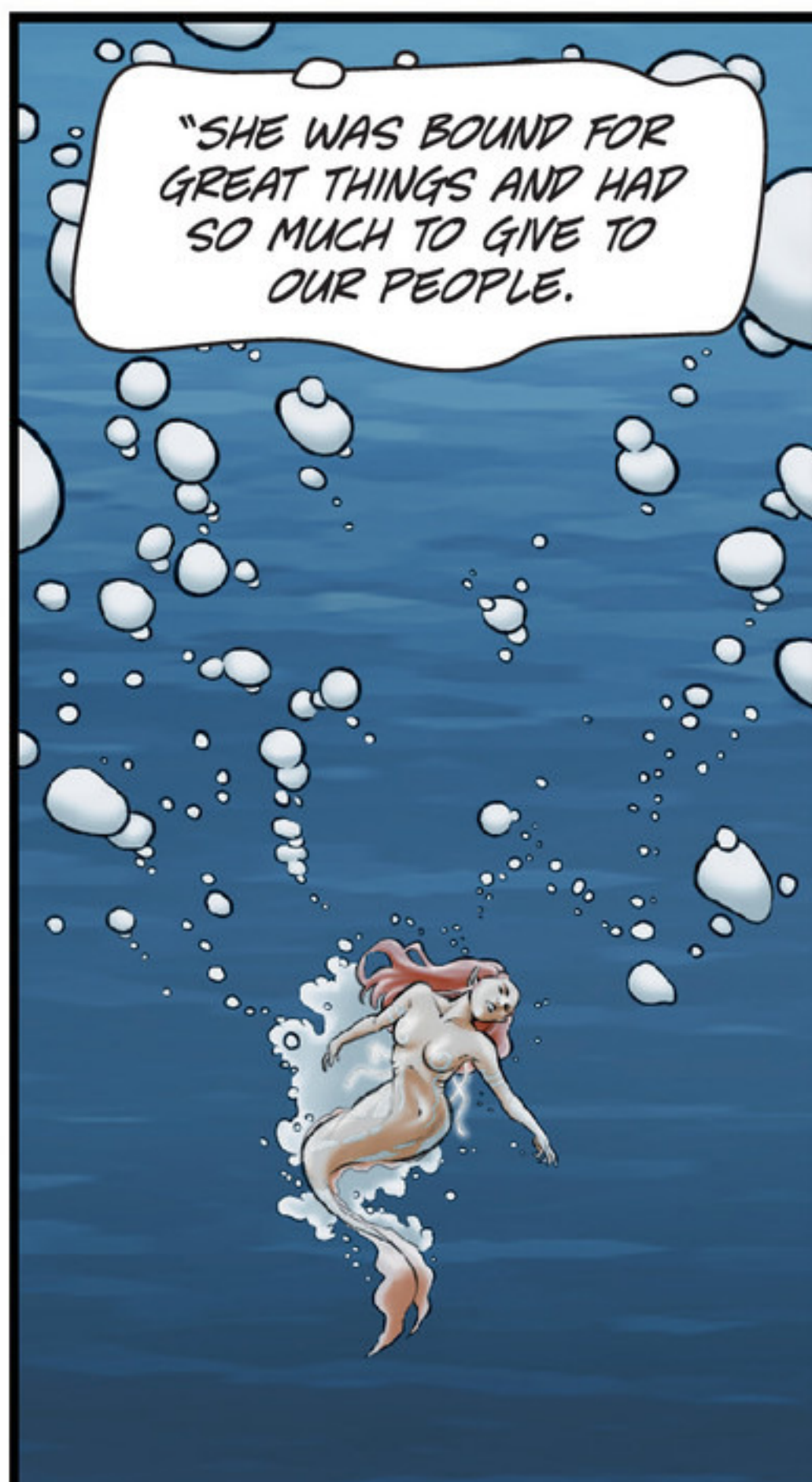


NOOO!

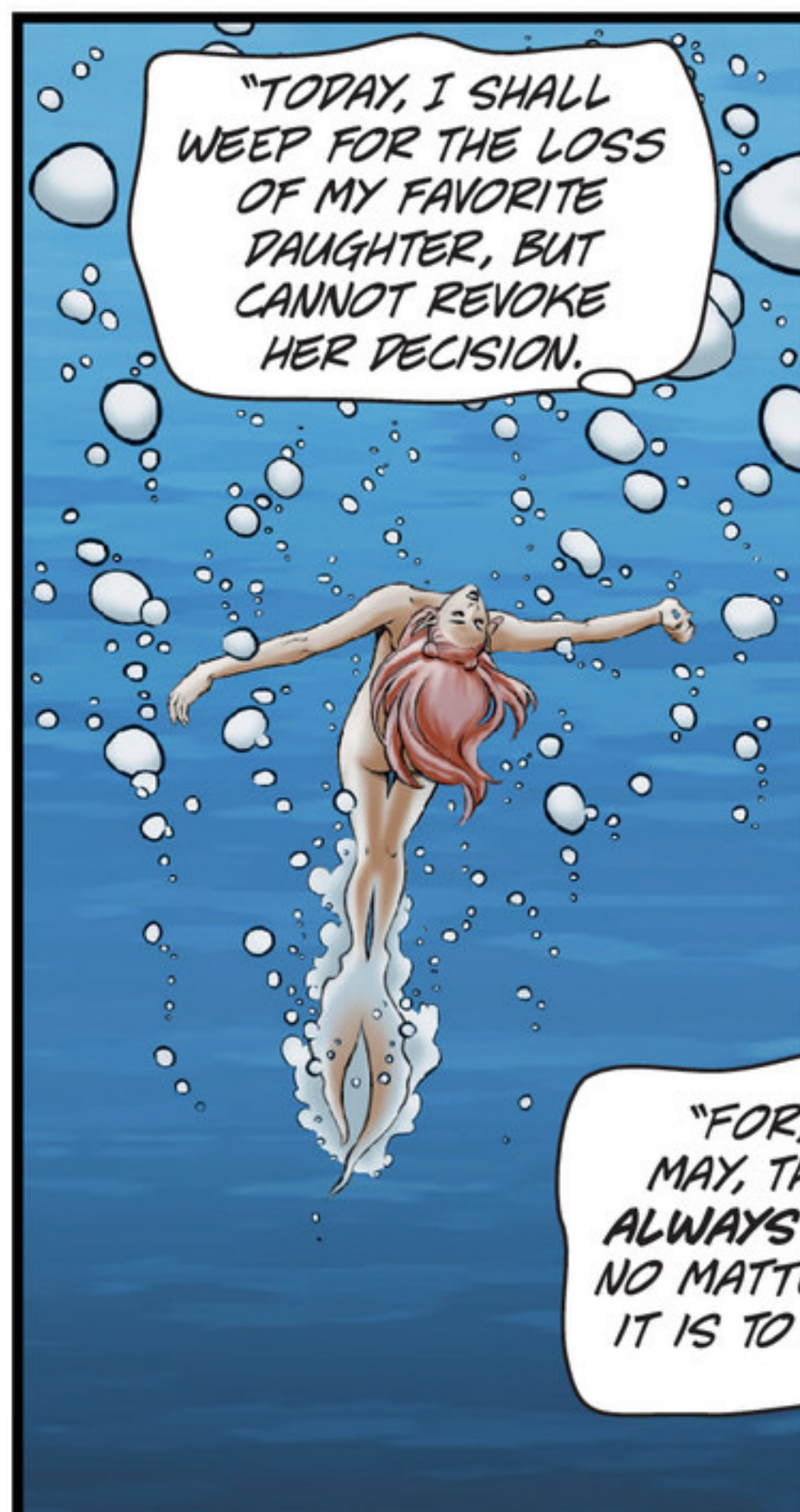


I REFUSE TO
BELIEVE IT! ALL
THIS... OVER A
NEWT?

THE TIES THAT
UNITED THEM WERE
BEYOND BELIEF,
HUSBAND.

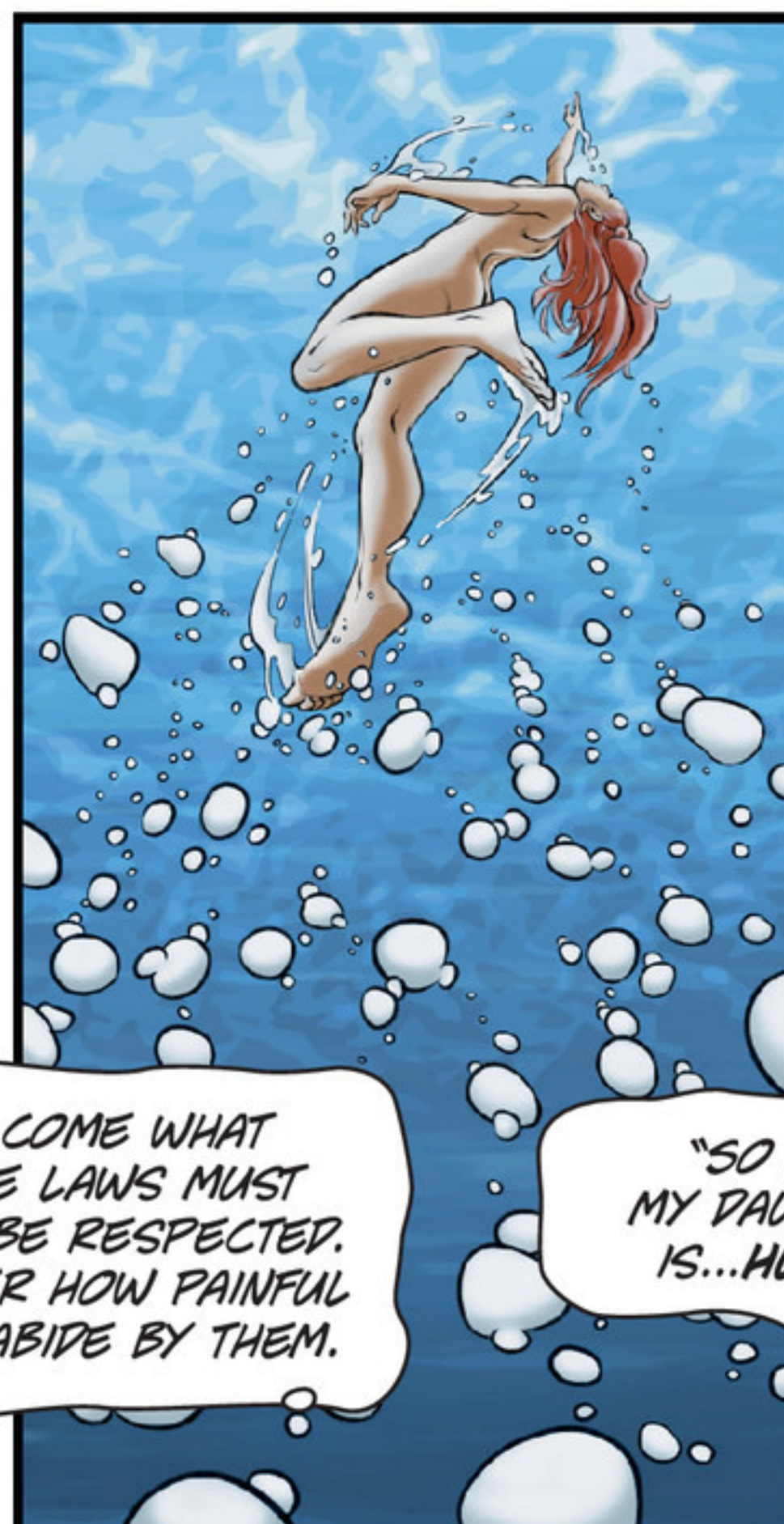


"SHE WAS BOUND FOR
GREAT THINGS AND HAD
SO MUCH TO GIVE TO
OUR PEOPLE.

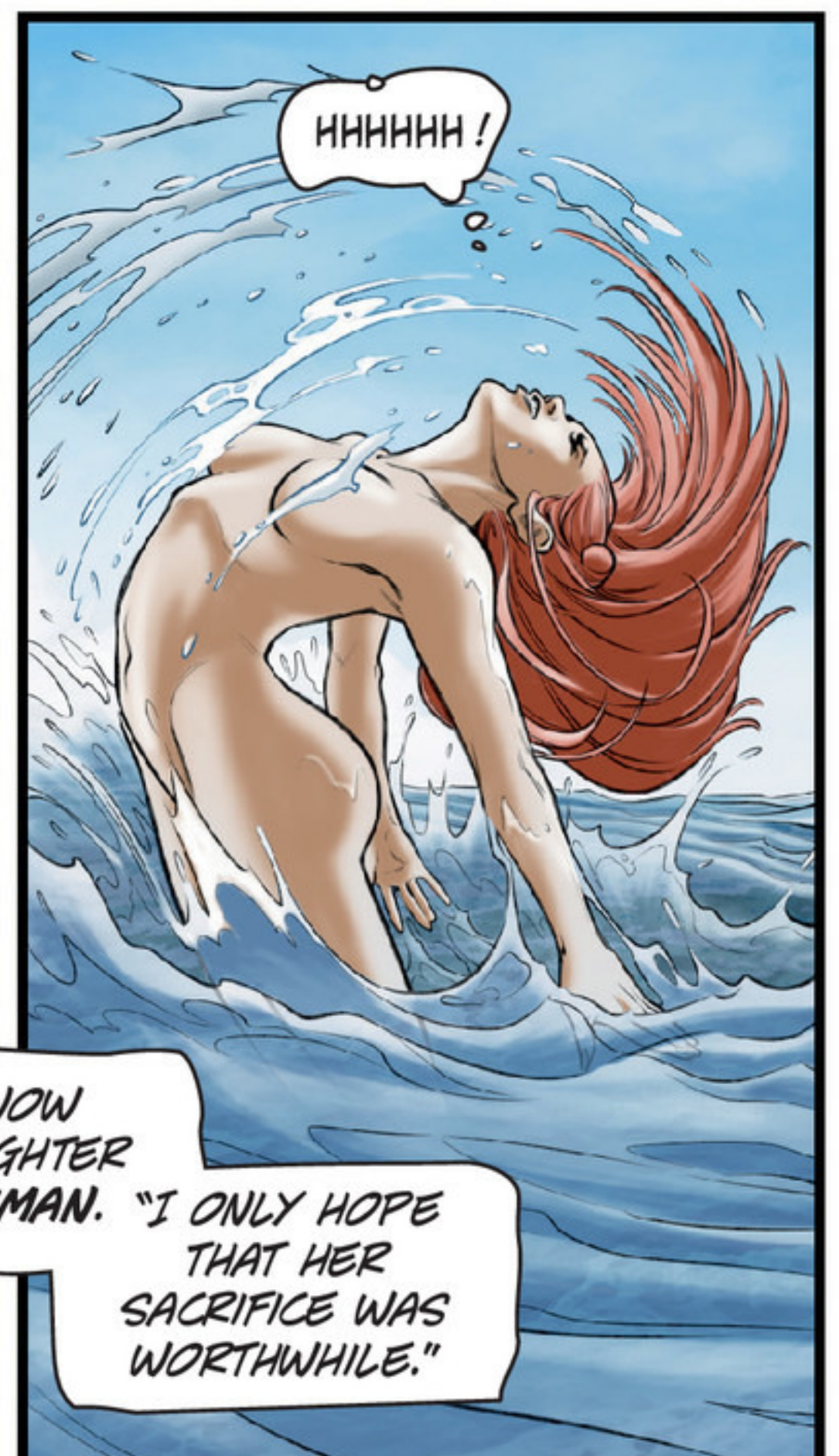


"TODAY, I SHALL
WEEP FOR THE LOSS
OF MY FAVORITE
DAUGHTER, BUT
CANNOT REVOKE
HER DECISION.

"FOR, COME WHAT
MAY, THE LAWS MUST
ALWAYS BE RESPECTED.
NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL
IT IS TO ABIDE BY THEM.



"SO NOW
MY DAUGHTER
IS...HUMAN. "I ONLY HOPE
THAT HER
SACRIFICE WAS
WORTHWHILE."



HHHHH!

SEVERAL MONTHS LATER...

I'M AFRAID FOR HIS LIFE, INGA.

I KNOW HE'S DIFFERENT FROM ALL THE REST, BUT HE'S STILL MY CHILD.

HE MAY NOT TALK LIKE US, AND HE HARDLY RECOGNIZES HIS FAMILY, BUT HE'S HARMLESS. NOT LIKE HIS FATHER, HOLGIR, THINKS...

SIGFRED'S JUST A BABY LOCKED INSIDE THE BODY OF AN OLDER CHILD.

HOLGIR IS CONVINCED THAT SOME DEMON HAS BROUGHT THIS BAD LUCK ON OUR FAMILY, SO HE PLANS TO KILL HIM TONIGHT!

I CAN'T LET HIM DO THA--

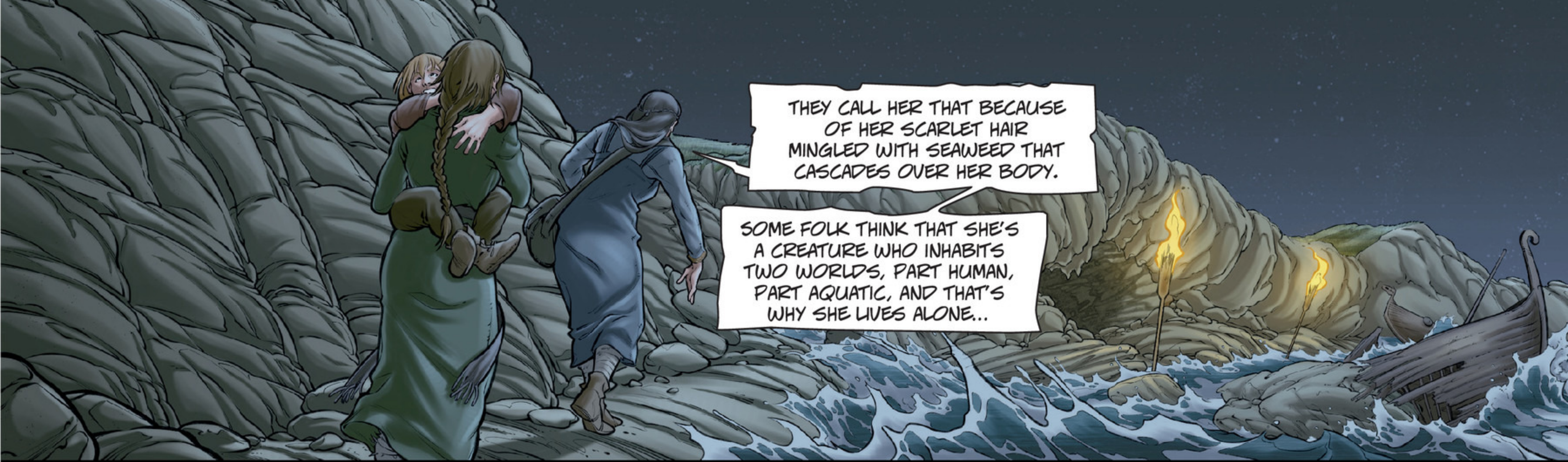
AAAAH!

YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, COMING TO ME, SVANHILD. I KNOW WHAT TO DO.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

TO CONSULT THE RÍÐ SPÁKONA*...

*RED SOOTHSAYER.



THEY CALL HER THAT BECAUSE OF HER SCARLET HAIR MINGLED WITH SEAWEED THAT CASCADES OVER HER BODY.

SOME FOLK THINK THAT SHE'S A CREATURE WHO INHABITS TWO WORLDS, PART HUMAN, PART AQUATIC, AND THAT'S WHY SHE LIVES ALONE...



...IN THIS WRECKED LONGSHIP. WE DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT IT JUST APPEARED AT THE FOOT OF THE CLIFF ONE DAY.

SPÅKONA?

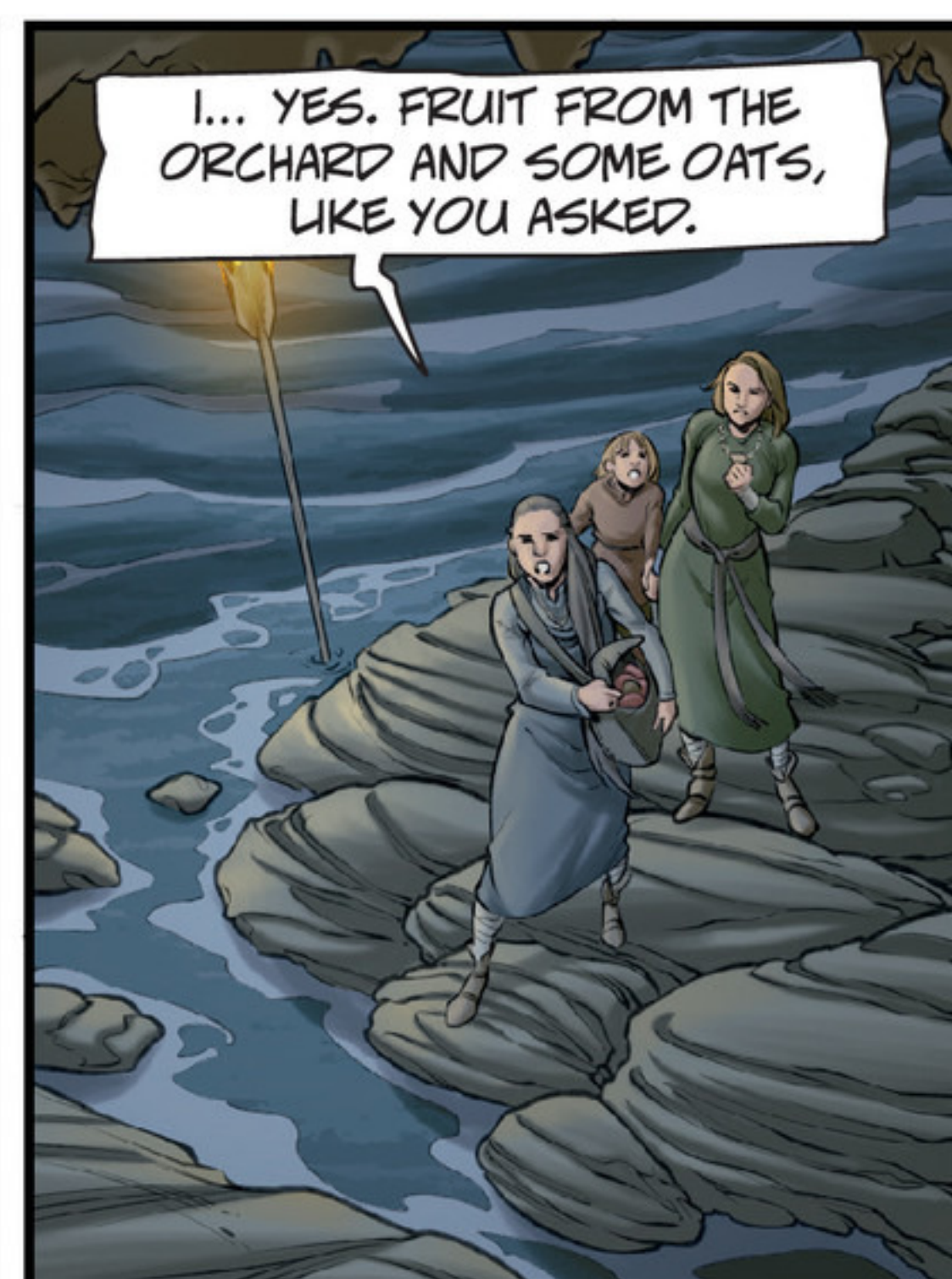


THIS CHILD HAS SUFFERED FROM AN UNKNOWN MALADY SINCE BIRTH.

CAN YOU SAVE HIM?



HHHHHH... HAVE YOU... BROUGHT... HHH... FOOD?



I... YES. FRUIT FROM THE ORCHARD AND SOME OATS, LIKE YOU ASKED.



HE'S AS BIG AS AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD BOY, BUT HIS MIND...



JEG VED ET SLOT, DETS VAEG...



ER GRØNNE BØLGER LAG PÅ LAG...



HAHAHAHA!
CATCH ME,
MOMMY!

YOU'RE... RUNNING
TOO FAST, SIGFRED!



BY FRIGG,
IT'S... IT'S
A MIRAC--

SPLASH



THAT SOUNDED LIKE
SOMEONE FALLING IN
THE WATER! MAYBE
IT WAS THE SPÄ--



NO, DON'T DO THAT!



IT'S A FULL MOON!



I... I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

THEY SAY THAT,
ON THE NIGHT OF
THE FULL MOON,
THE SPÄKONA
BATHES IN THE SEA.



"THOSE FEW AMONG US WHO
HAVE WITNESSED IT CLAIM TO
HAVE SEEN A STRANGE ANIMAL
RISING FROM THE DEPTHS..."

"...TO DANCE
BESIDE HER."

END.